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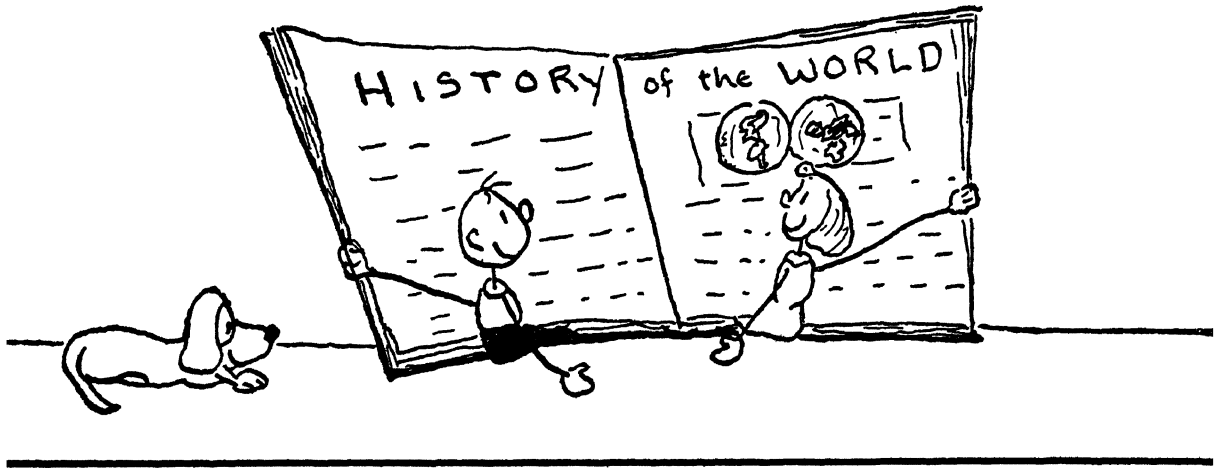
# HISTORY CAN BE FUN

*By*  
*Munro Leaf*



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# The story of HISTORY is really the story of **YOU**

That may seem kind of silly at first, but if you stop to think about it you will see why it is true. Who you are, where you live and how and why you do what you do every day, is like the latest chapter of a story that was started thousands of years ago and is still going on.

You once had a . . .

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**GRANDFATHER and GRANDMOTHER**

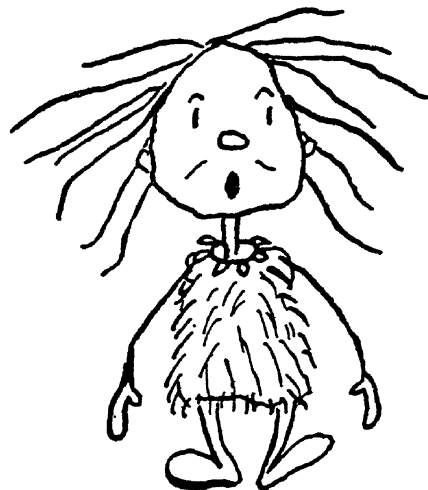


who didn't know how to read, write, count, plant a garden, raise animals, or make and use tools or weapons.

They probably didn't even know how to talk except to make grunts and howl at each other and they spent most of their time hunting for things to eat and running and hiding from animals that wanted to eat them.

You can bet that they didn't have much fun.

How they lived and how their children lived and their children's children for years and years and years, we can only guess about when we find their caves and mounds where bones and stones and crude hammers and hatchets and spears are buried. They sometimes drew pictures that help us to guess, but until men and women learned to write and leave words that tell us about themselves, we don't have any really true History.



**So History, which is the written record of what people did in the past that has made you the way you are today, starts nearly six thousand years ago in a place called Egypt that is many thousands of miles from where you are now.**

**Before we go to Egypt where the first written history was found, let us remember one important thing about people everywhere at any time, today or six thousand years ago — and that is this —**

**We have all wanted the same things:**

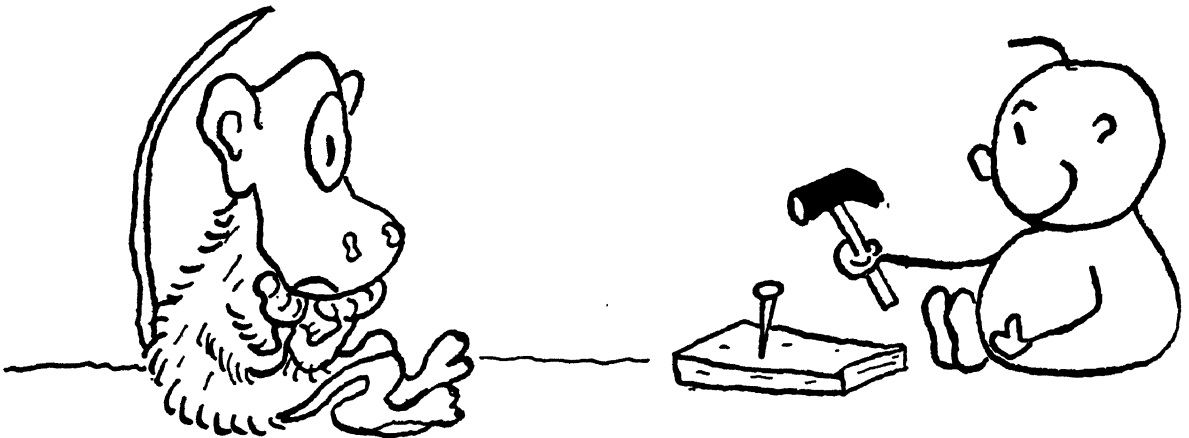
**Food**

**Clothing**

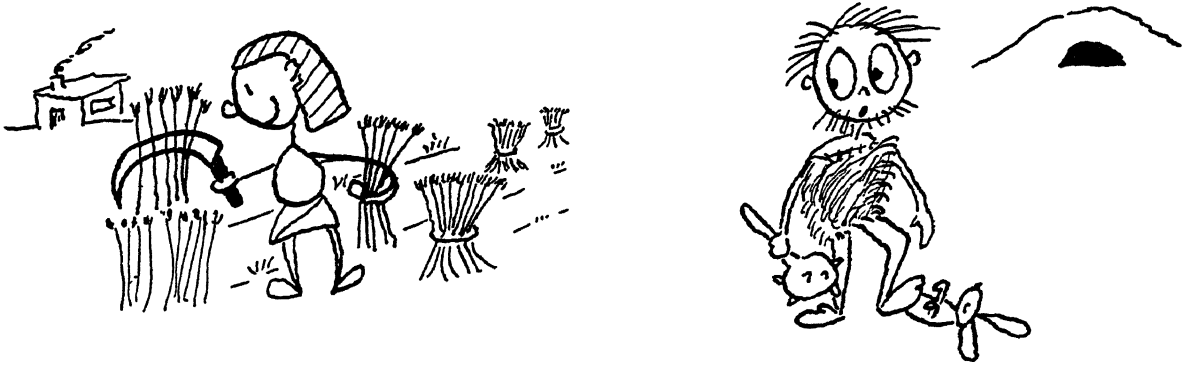
**Shelter, which means a place to live**

**If we could get those, then we have wanted a chance to make things and do things that would help to make life pleasanter for ourselves and for our children.**

**This is true of people all over the world and always has been.**



**MAN IS THE ONLY CREATURE WHO USES TOOLS!**



The first place in the world where people were comfortable enough with their food, clothing and shelter so they could start to think about doing some pleasant things together and to leave us their written story was in Egypt.

Egypt is in North Africa where the climate is fairly warm all year, and there was stone there and wood and clay for making buildings to live in, so neither **CLOTHING** nor **SHELTER** was too much of a problem.

People found that plenty of **FOOD** could be raised if they worked together and helped each other and this is how they did it:

Every year at about the same time, the water of the Nile River rises about thirty or forty feet and flows over its banks, flooding the valley on either side of it for a stretch of nearly six hundred miles down to the Mediterranean Sea. When the water of the river goes down again (as it always does) it leaves a layer of good, rich mud that makes wonderful soil in which to raise crops. So instead of always hunting and hiding, people long

ago started to plant seeds in this mud and to live on the grain they raised and to keep and feed some animals like cows, sheep and goats.

If they helped each other they could chase off wild, hunting animals and all be safer than they had ever been before.

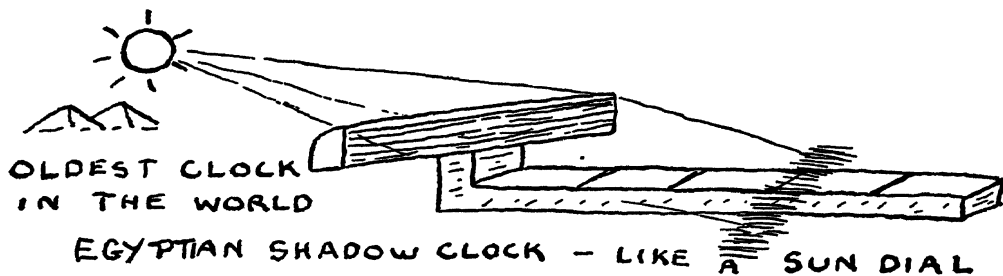
They learned to dig ditches and build dams and dikes together so they could use the water of the Nile to keep their crops growing. We call this irrigation and we still do it in many parts of our country today.

Working together, they learned how to talk to each other and after many years some of them learned to make a picture writing that told the story of how they lived.

We have learned about the early Egyptians from this writing that they left carved in stone, painted on walls and written with a brush or pen and ink on sheets of papyrus.

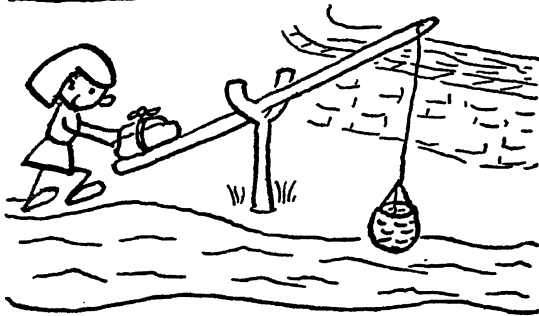
Papyrus is a reed that grows in Egypt and they rolled out thin strips of it and stuck them together in sheets that they could roll up like wallpaper. We get our word

### **PAPER from PAPYRUS.**

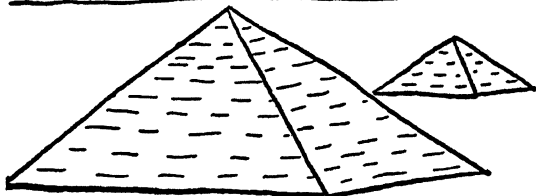




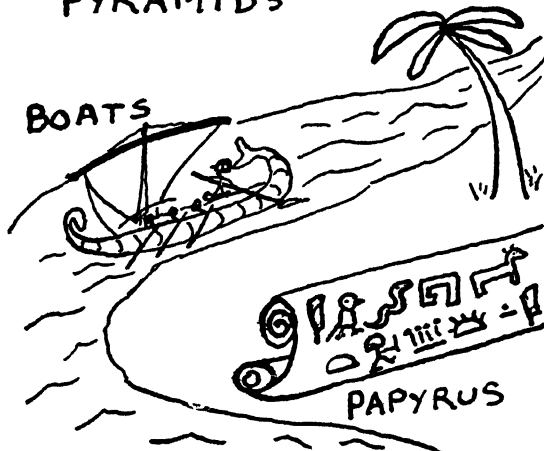
MEN BEGAN TO USE  
ANIMALS TO HELP  
THEM RAISE  
CROPS THEY BOTH ATE.



THEY BEGAN TO MAKE  
CRUDE MACHINES  
TO MAKE WORK  
EASIER.



PYRAMIDS



BOATS

PAPYRUS

The Egyptians learned many useful things and passed their knowledge along to others.

They learned to make tools and weapons of metal.

They built boats and large buildings.

They learned a lot about planting different kinds of crops and storing them.

They wove cloth, painted pictures and made beautiful statues, furniture and jewelry.

They watched the regular rising and flooding of the Nile River and studied how the earth and the moon and the sun moved at certain times and after years of thinking about it they made a calendar with 365 days in it — very much like the one we use today.

After a while, so many people grew there or came to live in the Nile River valley that they started villages which became cities and they had leaders who made rules and laws that we now call government.

The early leaders were priests, who were like doctors and judges and record keepers, besides being

the clergymen in the temples of the Egyptian gods.

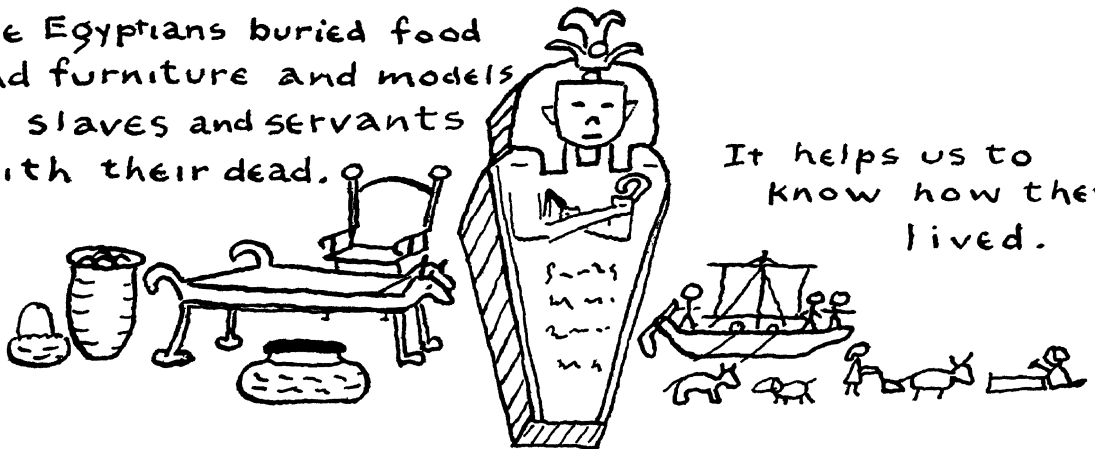
Then strong warriors became kings and ruled the people too. After a while the strongest king ruled all the rest and he was called the Pharaoh or Emperor.

The early Egyptians believed that people would want their bodies after they were dead, so they used to wrap them up in a special way that made them mummies. When they buried them they would pile stones up around them to protect these mummies.

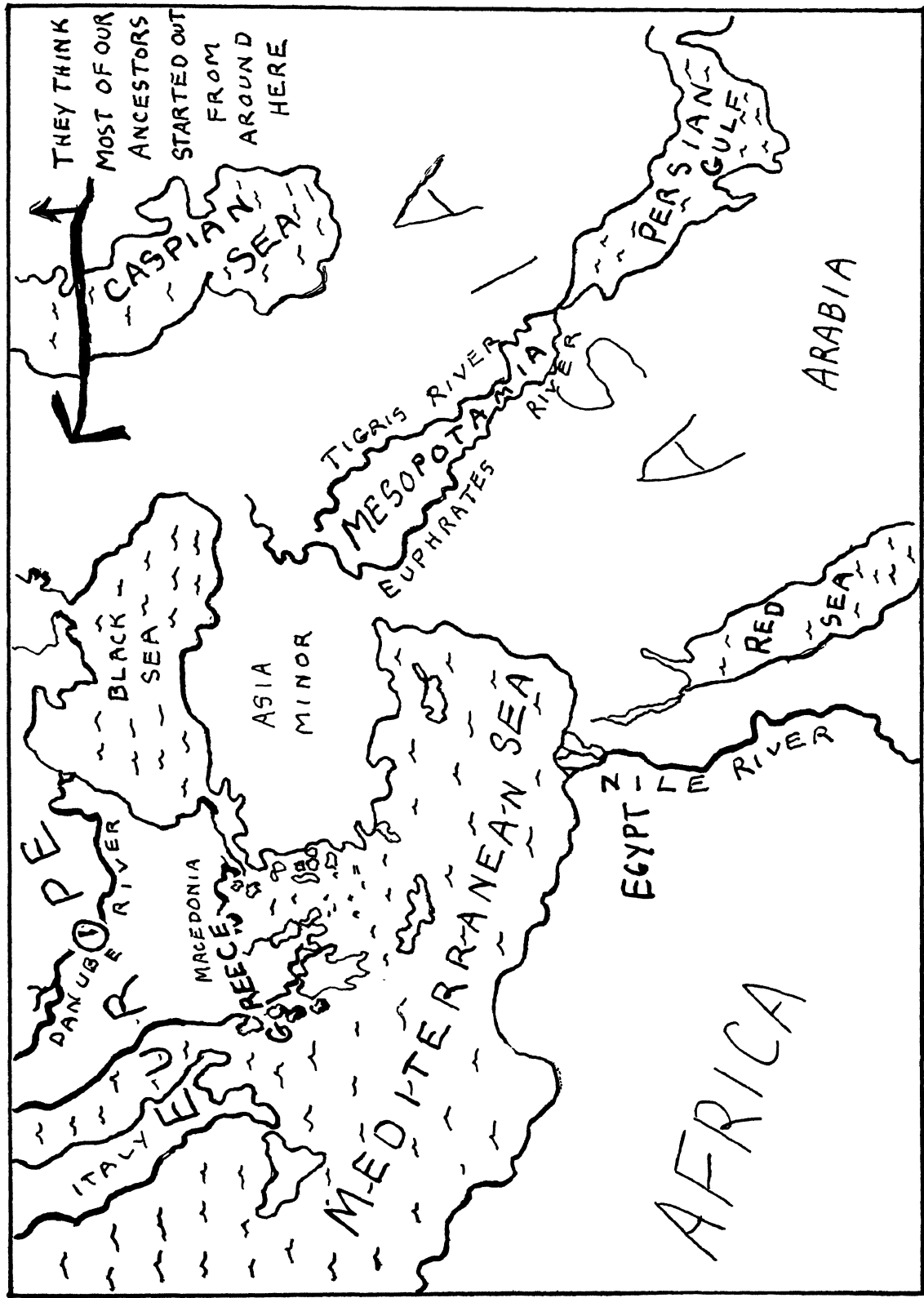
Many of the Pharaohs, while they were alive, made thousands and thousands of their people work for years and years to build bigger and bigger rock piles to protect their royal bodies when they died. Those giant stone piles are called Pyramids and they are still standing in Egypt today. One of them is about five hundred feet high and covers more than thirteen acres of land.

After the Pharaohs weakened their country by such rock piling foolishness instead of helping their people do useful things, Egypt was conquered by armies from other lands and it stopped being a great and powerful country.

The Egyptians buried food and furniture and models of slaves and servants with their dead.



It helps us to know how they lived.



WHERE CIVILIZATION STARTED

If you will look at the map, you will see that in Asia not so many hundreds of miles from Egypt there is another land that has fertile, crop-raising valleys that are watered by two more big rivers.

That land is called Mesopotamia (because that means "between the rivers") and the two rivers are called the Tigris and the Euphrates. They both flow down into the Persian Gulf, and in the land around these two rivers people started to gather together and become civilized at about the same time as others did in Egypt.

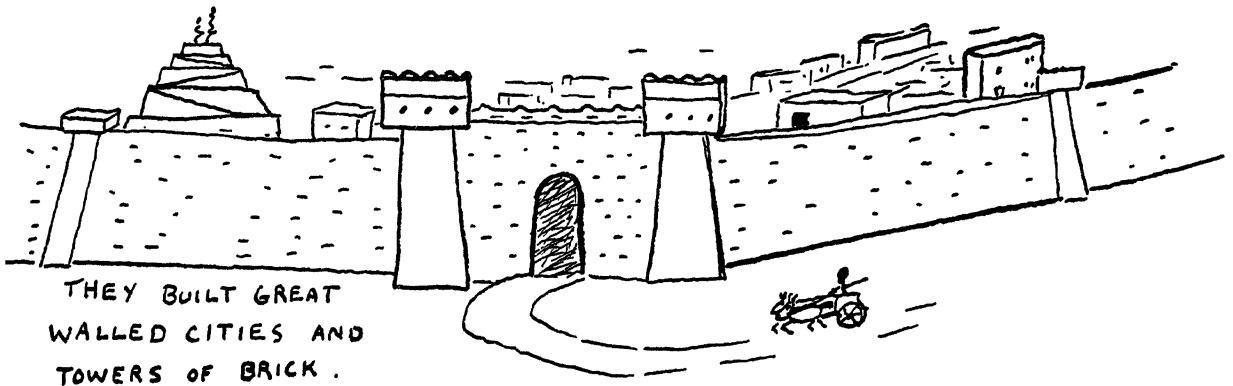
Like the Egyptians, these people learned to irrigate the land, raise crops, keep flocks and herds of animals and to make buildings and boats and cities.

But unlike the Egyptians, their country wasn't so well protected by deserts and seas from other tribes and gangs of men who wanted the good things they had raised and made. That caused a lot of trouble for thousands of years, because it seems they were nearly always fighting wars to see who was going to be the ruler of this rich land.

But even with all their wars, the people in and around this land, the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, the Hittites, the Chaldeans and Semitic Arabs, Syrians, Hebrews and Phoenicians, the Lydians and the Medes and the Persians—they all thought up so many new and better ways to do different things that you and I are able to live much better now because of them.

They came into this land from the desert lands, the





seashores, the mountains and the grassy pasturelands around it, so they brought different and new ideas for each other to think about and to improve.

You may not remember all those strange names of the different peoples who lived there, names you often read in Bible stories, but you can remember some of the things they did for us.

When they weren't fighting, they started trading with each other. They would swap things like so many sheep or cows for some wood or stone to build with, or cloth to wear or food to eat. They tamed wild horses



and taught them to pull the carts and chariots that they had invented after somebody discovered that a wheel would roll. They made roads and bridges and had messengers that really were the start of our system of mailing letters today.

They wrote on clay tablets with pointed sticks that made little wedge-shaped marks like this.



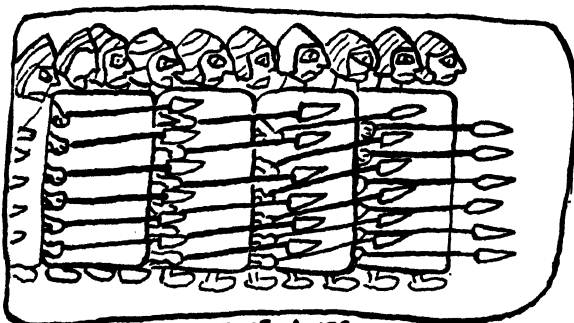
After a while the Phoenicians who lived by the sea and were great sailors and traders made up an alphabet that was the start of the one we use today.

Do you know what a wonderful invention our alphabet is? With only 26 little marks we can write all the words in our language.

They learned about the movements of the sun and moon and stars so well that we still use their information today in our astronomy. Our week of seven days comes from them. Too bad they didn't make longer week-ends.

They discovered how to melt and use iron for many things that are so valuable and useful to us right now.

They measured things and measured time, and learned to weave cloth from wool and cotton and they dyed it with beautiful colors. After a while they even thought up the first MONEY, so that people didn't have to trade just things for things—like cows for grain. A person could then trade a cow for money and then buy anything else he wanted to with it.



OLD STONE PICTURE OF A VERY EARLY  
MILITARY FORMATION

STERN RULE OF  
WARRIOR KINGS.

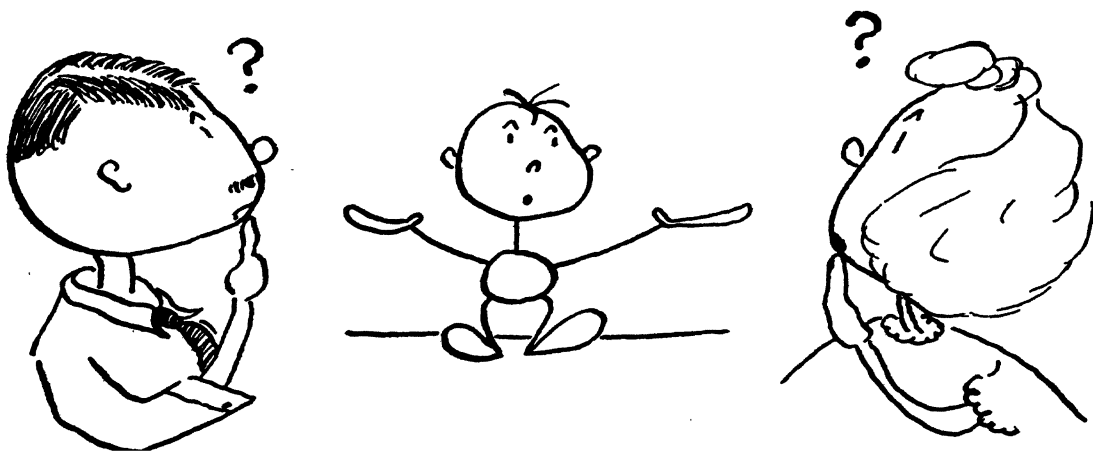


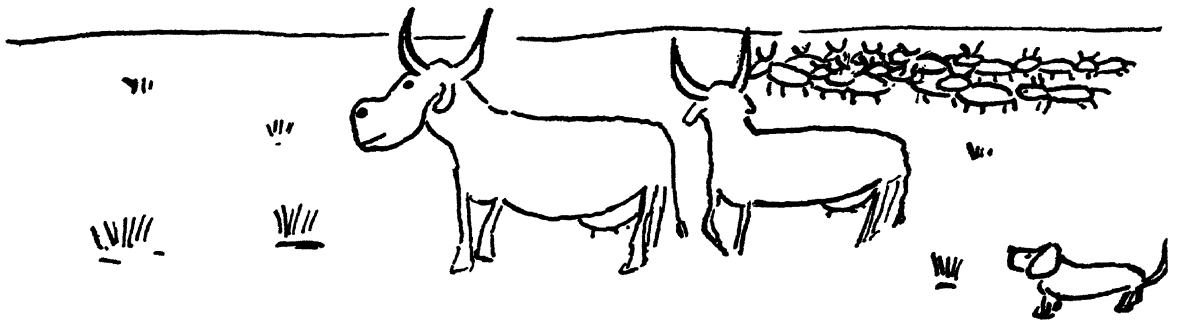
If you think your parents and teachers and policemen are strict today, you should have lived when you had to obey some of the kings and emperors who started laws in and around Mesopotamia thousands of years ago.

Right here you might very well say, "It's all very well to talk about Egypt and Mesopotamia and the things that were done there, but what does that have to do with me? I didn't come from either of those places—and my great-great many great grandfathers didn't either."

You may be right—perhaps they didn't—but you'll probably be surprised when you find out where they did come from.

If you ask your father or mother where their people came from, the chances are that they will say England or Ireland or France or Germany, Norway or Italy or somewhere else in Europe, but that will be only partly right. Later in the book we tell how the Negro and Oriental people came to America. It's true that most of our ancestors did come from Europe. (Ancestors is just a shorter way of saying all those greats in front of your grandfather's grandfathers or grandmothers.) But





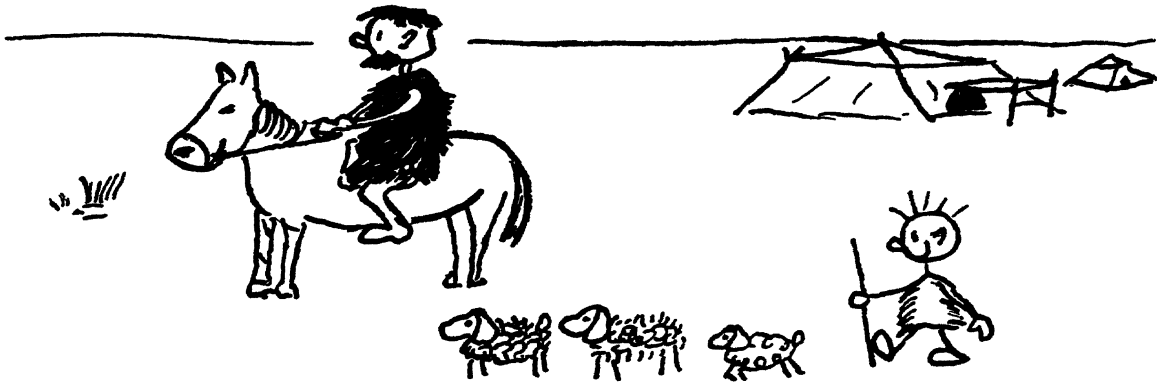
where did their ancestors come from before that? At one time, thousands of years ago, nearly all of Europe was covered with ice and snow and nobody could live there, so where were your long-ago ancestors then?

The scientists and people who work and study to find answers to such questions have nearly all decided that ancestors of most of the people who live in Europe came from a place far, far away to the east, in Asia, near the Caspian Sea. So some of your ancestor people had to come a long, long way before you could be born in the United States of America.

They didn't move in a hurry, and a lot happened to them on the way during all the years it took.

When these tribes and bands of white people who were our ancestors started to move away from their early homelands high up on the wide, grassy plains that we call steppes, they were herders of animals and wanderers that we call **NOMADS**.

Nomads move from place to place so the herds or flocks of animals they keep can find grass to eat. Usually, they live in tents that they can take with them, and long ago these nomads of the steppes learned to



tame horses to help them in their work.

In Egypt and Mesopotamia we learned about the people who settled in one place so they could raise grain and other crops for food.

The main food of the nomads was the meat of their animals and milk, and the things that could be made from milk, like butter and cheese.

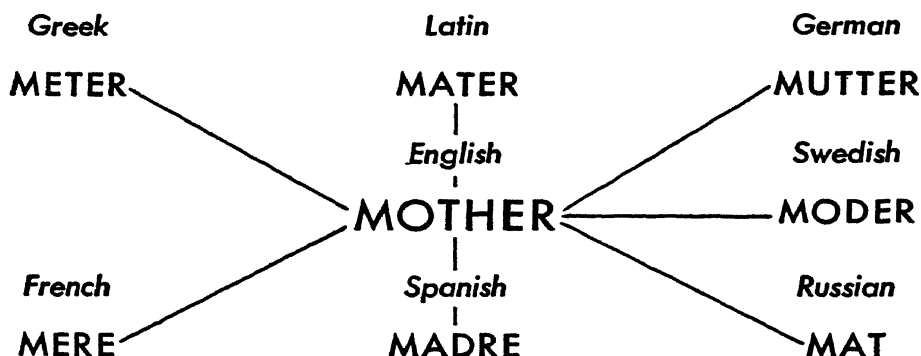
In one way you could say that nomads live on grass. If their animals get enough grass to eat, then the men have enough to eat, too.

When those early nomads left the country around the Caspian Sea to start their long wanderings, groups of them went in different directions. Some went eastward and southward, so we now find white people whose ancestors have lived in Persia, India and other distant parts of Asia for thousands of years.

The ones who went westward toward Europe spread out in all directions. Many of them stopped to mix with tribes of settled people and sometimes conquer and rule them. Others kept going until after a while they had scattered all over Europe and the islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

One of the reasons we think that most of the Europeans once all had some of the same kind of ancestors is because of their white coloring. Another reason is that many of the words we speak sound as though they probably came from one single language that they all spoke together long, long ago.

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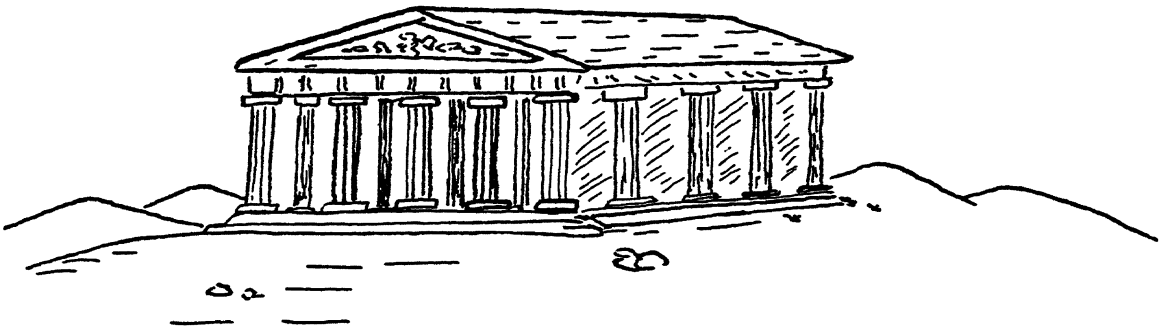
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Because many of these early, early nomads went from the Caspian Sea to India and to Europe, they are often spoken of as the Indo-Europeans.

The next interesting people we will watch for a while in this book are some of these nomads who wandered down and settled in a land by the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, and they are called the GREEKS.



ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MOVED  
INTO EUROPE SEEMED TO  
HAVE LOVED TO LISTEN TO  
BARDS AND MINSTRELS WHO  
SANG AND TOLD STORIES OF  
THEIR HEROES.



It's very hard sometimes to figure out just why some persons or some groups of people rise to greatness and have so much to do with the way many others live. Other people are willing to follow these leaders and their ways of doing things, mainly, I suppose, because it seems to make good sense. Whatever the reasons were, one of the greatest groups of people who have ever lived and taught the world many wonderful things and wise ways of thinking and acting were the people we call the ancient Greeks.

It wasn't because there were so many of them or because they were so powerful at first. To tell the truth, when they were doing their best thinking and giving the rest of the world their best teaching of ways to live and to make beautiful things, they were a pretty small group.

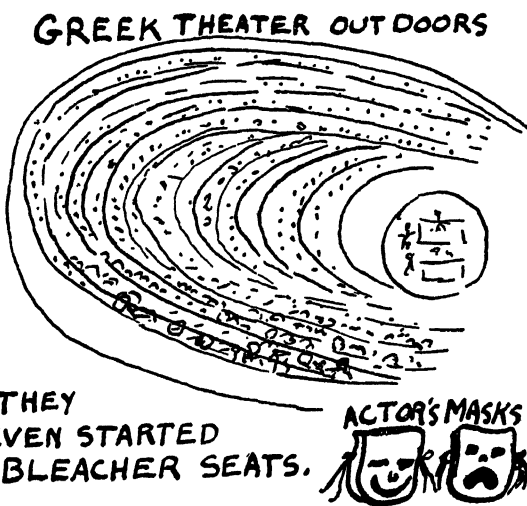
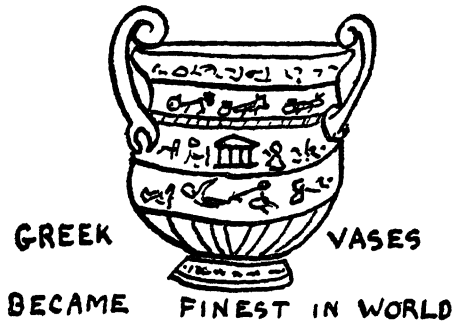
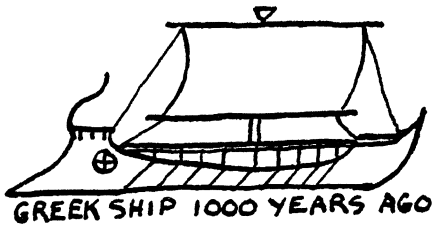
Those long-ago Greeks weren't perfect and they made some big and bad mistakes that finally made them a weak and broken little country that for hundreds of years was ruled by others. But while they were doing their best they left to you and me and the rest of the world some wonderful, valuable ideas.

When they first came wandering down from the northern lands around the Danube River into the hills and valleys and islands we now call Greece, they looked like a pretty crude, rough, tough and uncivilized bunch of nomads to the people who were already living there. But they were wise enough to learn and to welcome new ways and to try new things that looked sensible and useful to them. They certainly weren't lazy, and after a while they controlled the whole country and the islands of the Aegean Sea, which is a part of the Mediterranean.



At first they destroyed much that was good and beautiful that the people who lived in those islands had made in the hundreds of years that they had sailed and traded between the civilized lands of Egypt and the Mesopotamian Empires. However, the Greeks, who called themselves Hellenes, learned to value beauty and skill and right thinking so much, themselves, that later they more than made up for their early, ignorant destructiveness.





They became very good sailors and their ships sailed all over the Mediterranean carrying for trade the beautiful things their craftsmen had learned to make. Some of them sailed away to start new towns and cities and settle colonies in distant parts of that big inland sea. After a while we find Greek colonies way off in what are now France and Italy and even up on the shores of the Black Sea in Russia and in Asia Minor. They cared about simple and beautiful things, and their artists carved some of the greatest sculpture in the world, and their architects and builders made buildings and temples that were so lovely that we have been copying them ever since.

They added vowels to their written alphabet and made their language so rich in word pictures that their stories and poems and songs were models for hundreds of years and have been guides for the people who write for you even now. They started the whole idea of the theater and used to go to see plays the way we go to big baseball or football games.

They believed that healthy and strong bodies help us to have wise and good minds, so they loved sports and games that helped build good bodies. The Olympic Games of today were started by them.

The greatest lesson they taught us, though, was to use our minds. To try to find out the truth about everything—about science and government and how to get along with the many many people who were beginning to fill up the world.

In Egypt and Asia the people were ruled and bossed by Kings, Pharaohs and Emperors. Only a few told all the rest what they had to do and how they could live. The Greeks, for the first time, gave to the world the idea that every one of us is important and should have something to say about the way we want to live.

They believed that if each of us is willing to do our share of helping others and learning to be wise and being brave and loyal to help protect us all from dan-

ger—then each of us has an equal right to help make the rules and laws we live by.

Later in this book we shall see how this old Greek idea of everyone being important had much to do with the government we chose for our own country where we have no King, or Pharaoh or Emperor, but choose our own leaders.



As we move along in this little history of the world, we find that one people or another seem to lead or rule the rest for a while and then—whoops—they make a serious mistake and before long they are finished as the leaders, and somebody else takes their place.

Well, the Greeks made their big mistake, and the next people who took over the job of leadership were the Romans.

Before we talk about the Romans, though, we had better make a note of the main mistake that the Greeks made. While they were wise in many ways, they had one great fault that finally ruined them. It was that the different parts of Greece couldn't get along together among themselves.





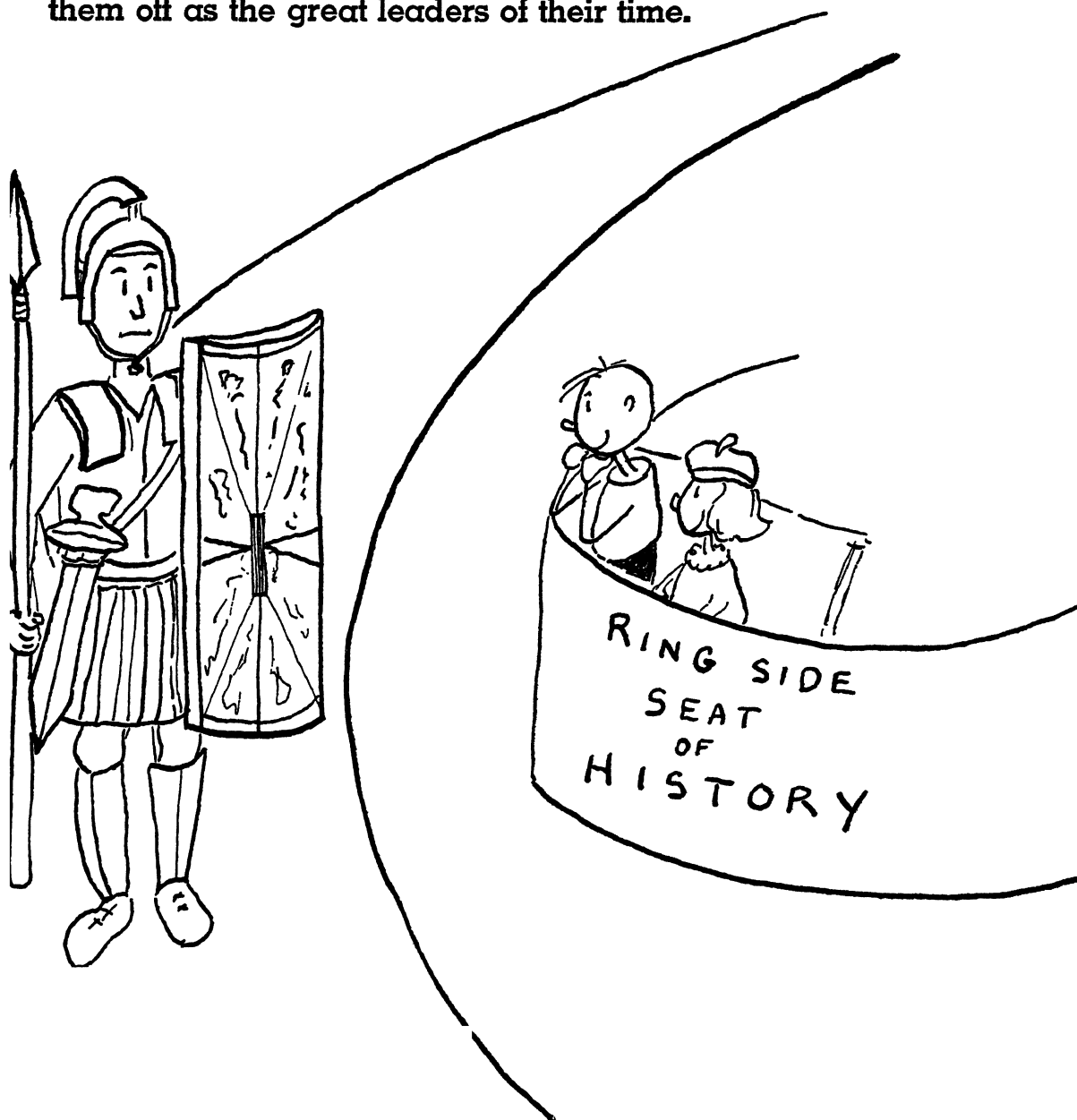
ALEXANDER LEARNED GREEK WAYS WHEN HE  
WAS A BOY. LATER HE SPREAD THEM  
OVER HIS WHOLE EMPIRE.

Each Greek city and the land right close to it ruled itself. There was great Athens and military Sparta and Corinth, Thebes, and about a hundred others. They all spoke the same language and joined together more or less when outsiders attacked them, as the Persians did twice, but the rest of the time they quarreled among themselves as to which city-state was going to boss the others.

In some ways they were like a family in which the brothers and sisters squabble so much they all suffer. Finally they fought wars against each other and that finished them, because a leader named Philip from Macedonia, in the hills north of them, came down and forced them all to get together and take orders from him. Then his son called Alexander the Great led the Greeks and his Greek-speaking Macedonians in a war conquering nearly all the world that people knew about then—Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia and all Asia Minor, the Mediterranean islands and colonies, too. He was

the ruler of practically everybody for a short while, and he taught Greek ways to millions of people, but when he died, after only a few years of ruling, his generals divided the known world up again.

So we come to the Romans to find out—who they were—what they did that has so much to do with us today—and what mistakes they made that finished them off as the great leaders of their time.



If you look back at our map of the ancient world you will see that over in the western part of the Mediterranean, Italy sticks down like a big boot into the most important sea of olden times. Around the same time the first Greek nomads were moving into the country they settled, other Indo-European nomads came down into the warm, sunny middle of this boot and stayed. They were called Latins, and they became good farmers in that fertile country. They didn't have any easy time of it though after they had built the city of Rome on the banks of the Tiber River. Rome was watched very carefully by jealous people called the Etruscans who lived north of them, by the Greek colonists who lived south of them and by the Carthaginians who lived in North Africa just across the Mediterranean Sea from Italy.

As these courageous Latin farmers grew stronger through the years and made allies around them and conquered their jealous neighbors, their city of Rome grew to be very powerful. Learning much from the Greeks whom they admired very much and imitated in many ways, they became traders and merchants too.

Carthage, in North Africa, had been settled long before by the Phoenicians, who had come from the far-away eastern coast of the Mediterranean near Mesopotamia, and until the Romans grew strong they had been the boss sailors and merchants of the western part of the old world.

Carthage and Rome went to war against each other



and, though Carthage had one famous general named Hannibal who crossed the Alps with an army and almost completely defeated the Romans, Rome won in the end. They destroyed Carthage entirely and by the time the three sections of the Eastern Mediterranean world were squabbling and fighting among themselves Rome was the greatest power in the west. Alexander's great empire had been divided and weakened under his generals, and, before many years of history had passed, the Romans marched and sailed eastward and were rulers and law makers of the whole Mediterranean world.

You may easily wonder how a simple farming people with their city-state of Rome rose to such power that they could tell the whole rest of the ancient world what to do.

What made them great was that they had the sense to try to learn from others' mistakes, to do better by copying what was good and throwing away ways that were bad and led to failure. They often had a hard time living up to this themselves. They had strong men and leaders who were bad, as well as good ones. Some grew too rich by dishonesty and selfishness, many were cruel and at times gave cheap and disgusting excitement to the poor people instead of honestly trying to make their lives better. However, for hundreds of years the old world was in better shape because of good Romans than it had ever been before. Those best Romans gave three ways of doing things to the rest of the world that best people of our times try to follow in our own country today.

### **Three Great Roman Gifts To Us**

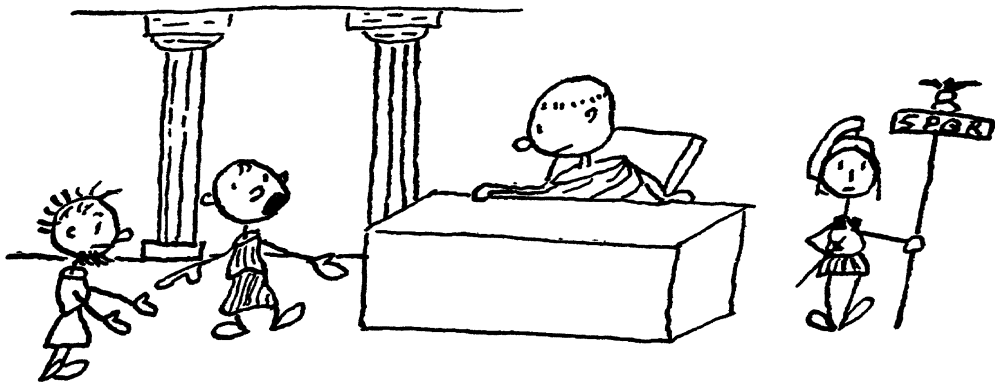
- I The Rights of Man**
- II Order Under Law**
- III We Don't Live Alone**

#### **I**

The Romans had learned from the earlier Greeks that human beings at all ages need to feel that they are important and want to have some say in how they shall live. Their wisest leaders tried to give the Roman people a feeling of pride in their country because it was really their country and they were helping to make it great in the way they helped to choose. Copying, imitating, improving and spreading the good things of many



countries—buildings, art, science and government—they carried some civilizations far and wide in their pride of being Romans.

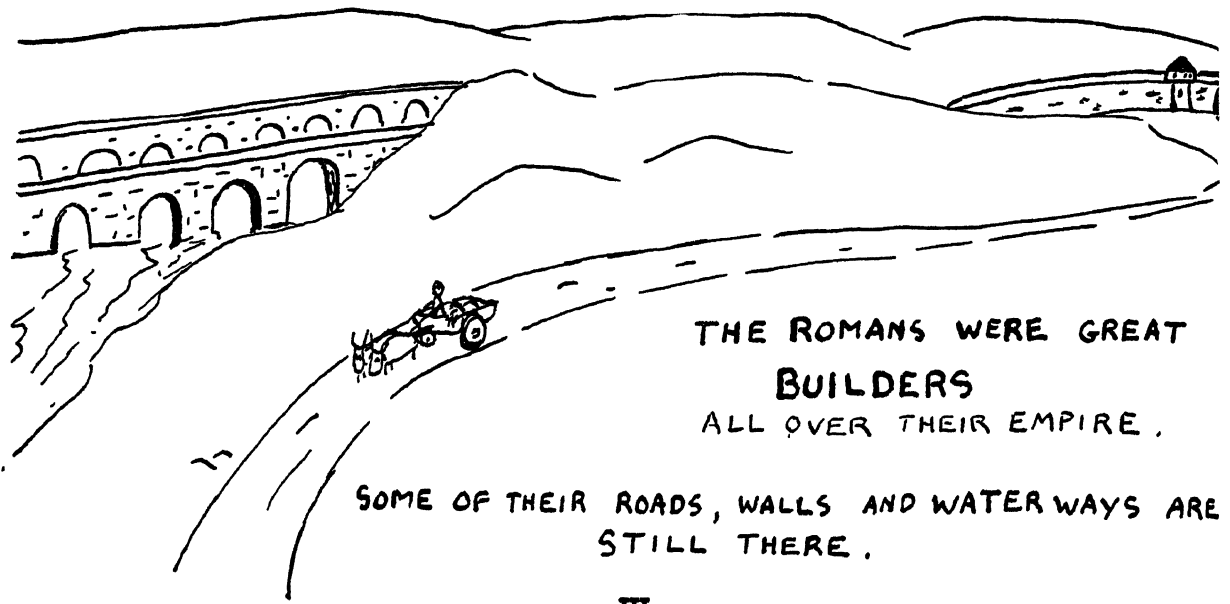


## FAIR TRIALS AND JUSTICE

### II

Probably the greatest gift of the Romans to us was Law. They believed that people of the world could get along best if they all obeyed rules for living decently together. Those rules had to be right and fair and just, and had to be obeyed by everyone—not just those who felt like it. The best Romans felt that all men who were willing to be educated and grow wise enough to help should have a say in making those laws and seeing that they were carried out. The famous Roman Legions of citizen-soldiers marched and sailed all over the ancient world from England to Egypt to see that the laws were obeyed.

In the best years of Roman rule these laws made peace and order that brought some happiness into what had been a scared and worried world of everlasting brawls and fights and wars.



THE ROMANS WERE GREAT  
BUILDERS

ALL OVER THEIR EMPIRE .

SOME OF THEIR ROADS , WALLS AND WATERWAYS ARE  
STILL THERE .

### III

The Romans realized better than some people seem to even today that We Do Not Live Alone. They knew that trouble and fighting and disorder in one part of the world sooner or later would affect people everywhere. That is one of the reasons why they went into new lands and tried to set up government and law that would let the people there live in peace. They were wise enough to know that all peoples are not exactly alike, so they let them help make their own best rules.

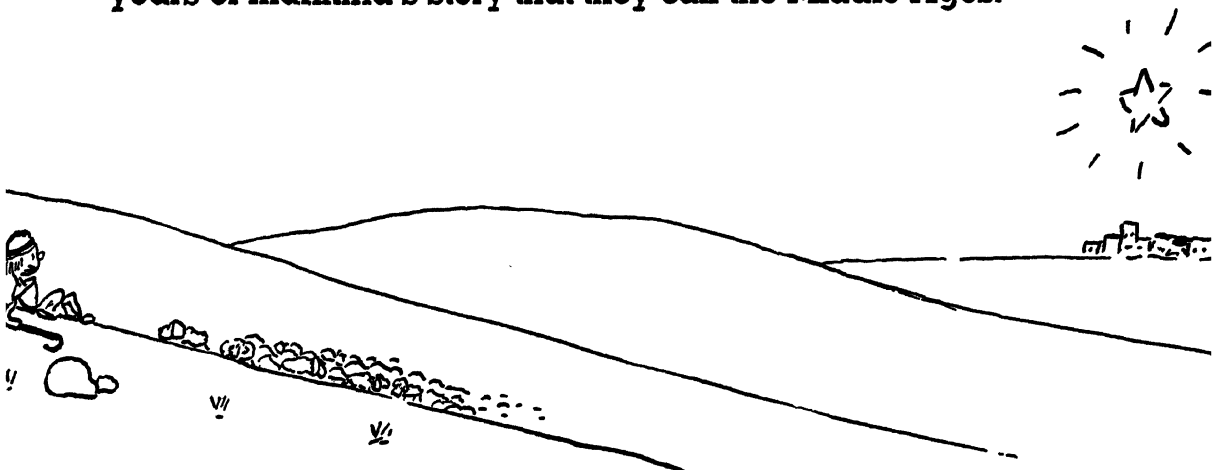
In one way the Romans were different from most of the ruling people before them: they let other people think and believe and worship as they wanted to, as long as they behaved themselves.

Jesus Christ was born in a faraway part of the Roman Empire called Judea in Palestine, and he and his followers started the great Christian religions that are now believed in by millions of people in the western world.

As we shall see later, most of Rome and Italy and all Europe became Christian in time, and we now date the years of history as so many years B. C. (Before Christ's birth) or so many years A. D. (Anno Domini—that means "In the year of our Lord" after his birth.) 1950 A. D. means one thousand, nine hundred and fifty years after the birth of Christ.

Rome did a lot that was good for the world, but the Romans, too, made mistakes in trying to control the world's millions of people, and by the year 500 A. D. the Great Roman Empire had fallen apart and crude uncivilized tribes of barbarians from the lands to the north in Europe poured into Rome itself and ruled it. The people of Rome had become too selfish. Looking only for more and more luxury and excitement, they no longer worked for each other's good and their long years of leadership came to an end.

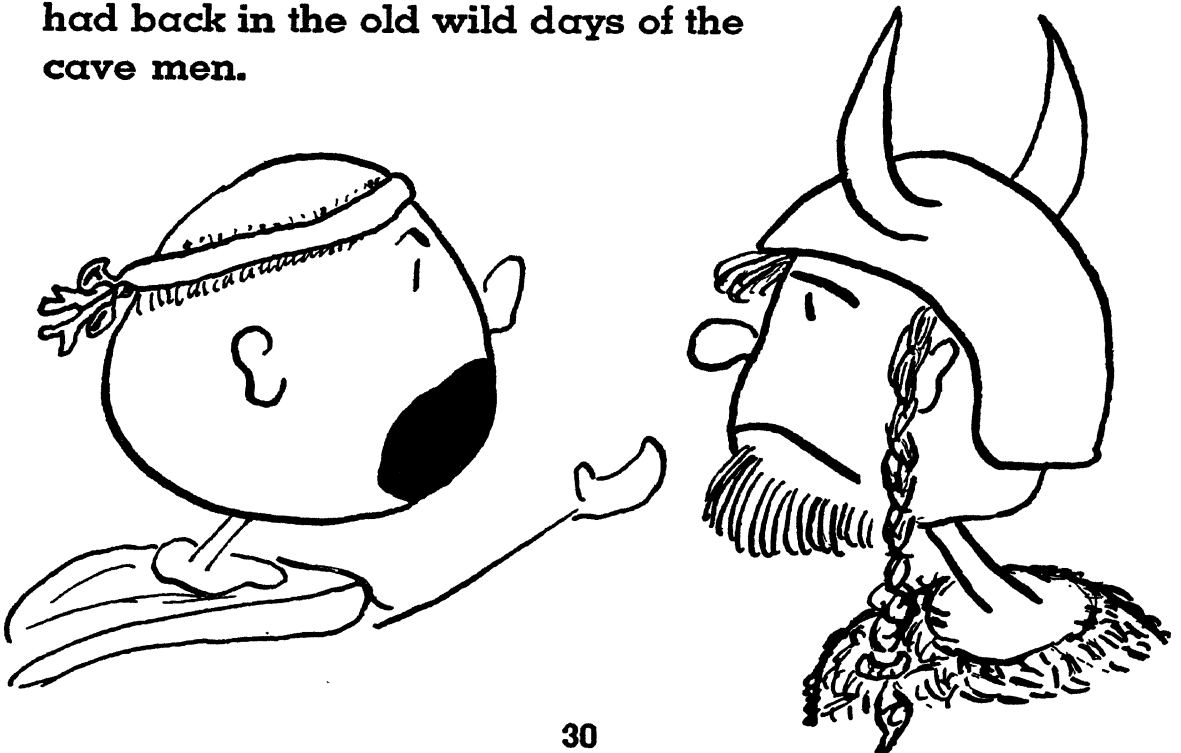
Those crude Barbarians who came down on Rome were the closer ancestors of most of us, so when Rome fell the people who write histories say that it marked the end of Ancient World History, and we now come to the years of mankind's story that they call the Middle Ages.



Now you would certainly think that after about 5000 years of men knowing how to write and pass information and experience on to each other and with lots of practice in living together under all kinds of rulers, the people of the world would begin to get along pretty well. They had surely learned a lot about building from each other, so they didn't have to huddle in caves hiding from wild animals, and they had seen how ships and good roads and horses, carts and chariots could make travel and trade easier. They had found wonderful ways to raise food and use wood, stone and clay and metals so they could make life easier and more beautiful. At times they had even had peace and order enough for a while to begin to enjoy themselves—

**BUT**

with all this behind them, people still quarreled, wrangled and fought each other nearly as much as they had back in the old wild days of the cave men.



SO—

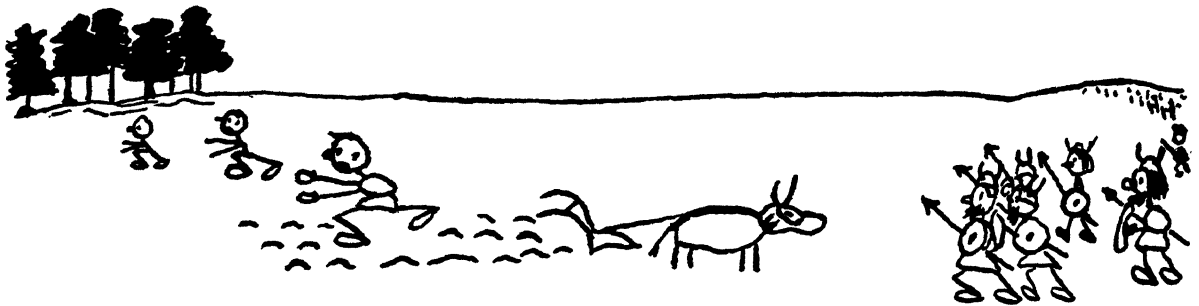
for almost a thousand years that came after the fall of Rome to the time when Columbus found America in 1492 A. D. it was a fairly sad and dangerous and dreary world to live in for most of the people during those Middle Ages.

When the people who write the histories you will read, tell about the Middle Ages, they naturally are most interested in what happened during those times to the people who were our ancestors—theirs and yours and mine. If most of us were the great-great-great grandchildren of people who had lived for thousands and thousands of years in parts of Asia like India or China or in Africa, we would be more interested in what happened in those places. Because most of our ancestors came from Europe, we will see what was happening there in the days before the first Europeans sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and started to settle the land we now call our United States.

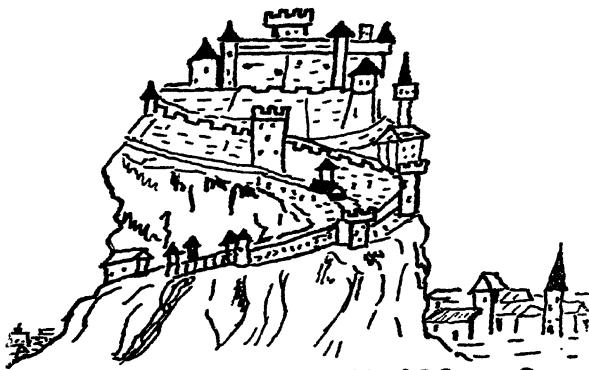
The early parts of the Middle Ages are often called the Dark Ages, and it's no wonder.



Gangs and tribes and hordes of wild, ignorant people who didn't know much about all the things the Egyptians, Greeks or Romans had learned, and who seemed to care even less, were pushing, shoving and fighting their ways over nearly all of Europe.



In their scramblings just to keep alive, one big gang would chase another away from lands they wanted, and the ones who were beaten and scared off would do the same thing to others who were even weaker than they. Things were so bad for so long that after a while when most of the Europeans had finally learned how to use stone for buildings and quieted down at least a little bit, their leaders built castles and forts so their people could run from their fields to them for protection when new enemies showed up.



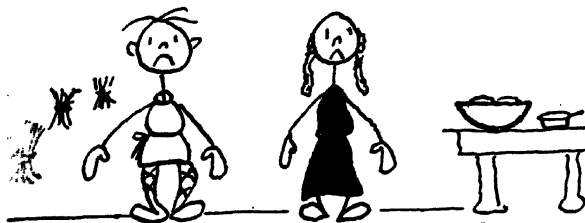
VILLAGES AND TOWNS GREW UP  
AROUND THE CASTLE FORTS.



KINGS TRIED TO RULE  
WHOLE COUNTRIES - BUT



STRONG LORDS, BARONS AND  
CHIEFS WITH THEIR OWN  
CASTLES AND ARMIES DID  
PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY WANTED.



POOR WORKING PEOPLE  
HAD TO PAY FOR PROTECTION  
FROM NEARLY EVERYBODY

This was the way the Feudal System got started in Europe and it lasted for a long time. A chief, or lord or baron or knight, or whatever he was called, depending on how much land he ruled, would keep an army handy in his castle-fort to protect his lands and people, or if he felt like it, to go capture somebody else's lands and people.

The only way a poor man who was trying to raise food for himself and his family could ever hope to live in any peace at all was to serve one of these strong chiefs. If he was lucky and had a good chief, he only had to pay part of his crops and the animals he raised each year and work a certain part of the time for his master in order to be able to keep his own little piece of land and stay alive. You can see that in spite of all the modern pretty pictures we sometimes see of knights and castles, life was no pleasant picnic in those days.

It is a good thing for our ancestors, and so for us, that there were many fine and noble knights and barons and other leaders who hon-

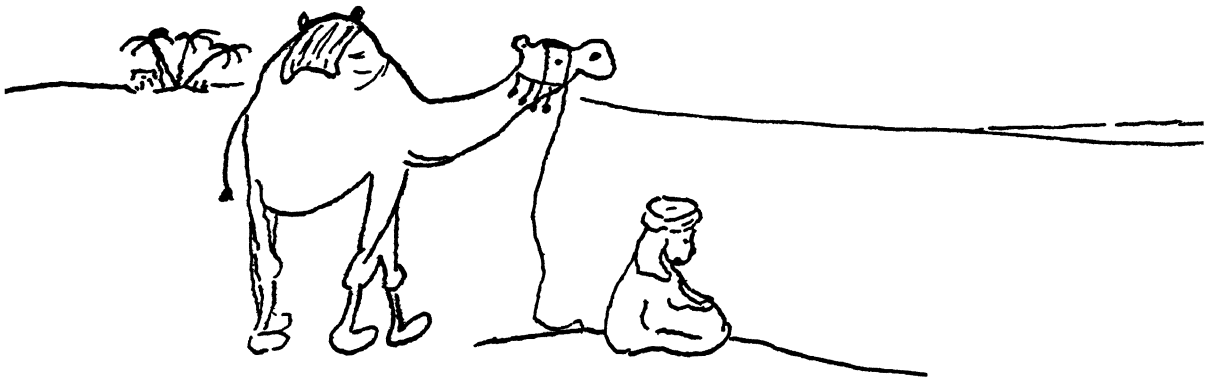
estly tried hard to keep their people from suffering too much in this gang warfare.

Strange as it may seem in the face of all the fighting and killing that went on, the Christian religion with its teaching of a better way to live spread more and more through Europe. Many of the chiefs and knights protected the churchmen who taught Christianity and kept alive some of the learning of civilization and the finer things that had been discovered in the past. Churches and abbeys and monasteries were built and people gave help to them and received help from them.

Far away in Arabia, something happened that was to bring more of the best of the old forgotten Mediterranean civilization to the people of Europe. Through war and travel and trading a whole new rebirth of learning and interest in living came to the West.

A new religion had been started in Western Asia by an Arab named Mohammed. His followers, called Mohammedans or Moslems, spread their religion and conquered most of the lands of Western Asia, North Africa and Spain.

Among the lands they captured was what the Chris-



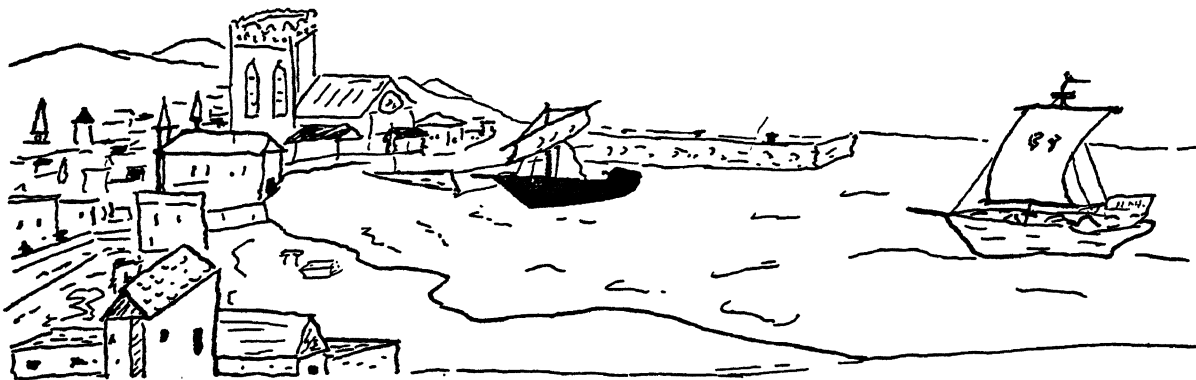


tians call the Holy Land, where Christ was born. So wars started that are known as the Crusades. Leaders from Western Europe, kings and nobles and knights and ordinary men, women and children marched and sailed to reach far-off Palestine to save it from the Moslem Turks. Many suffered and died on both sides as in all wars, and sometimes the Christians were successful for a while and then the Moslems.

When it was all over and a sort of peace was declared, some good had come out of all the trouble and misery—The Crusaders and their people knew more about civilized ways of living, and the good we often find in our enemies. They learned that the world is big and full of wonderful opportunities to make life better for all of us, if we will only try.

It is a queer twist of history that these Europeans had to go so far to strange lands in war to learn for the first time many of the truths that the old Greeks, Macedonians and Romans had taught to and learned from the people of the East long before the Crusades ever started. In some ways it was like walking to California from New York to find out something your father could have told you before you left if you had only been willing to listen to him.



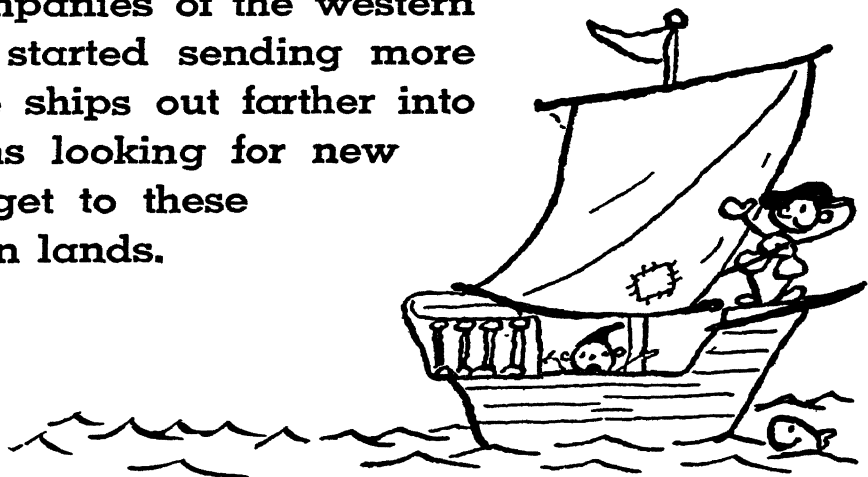


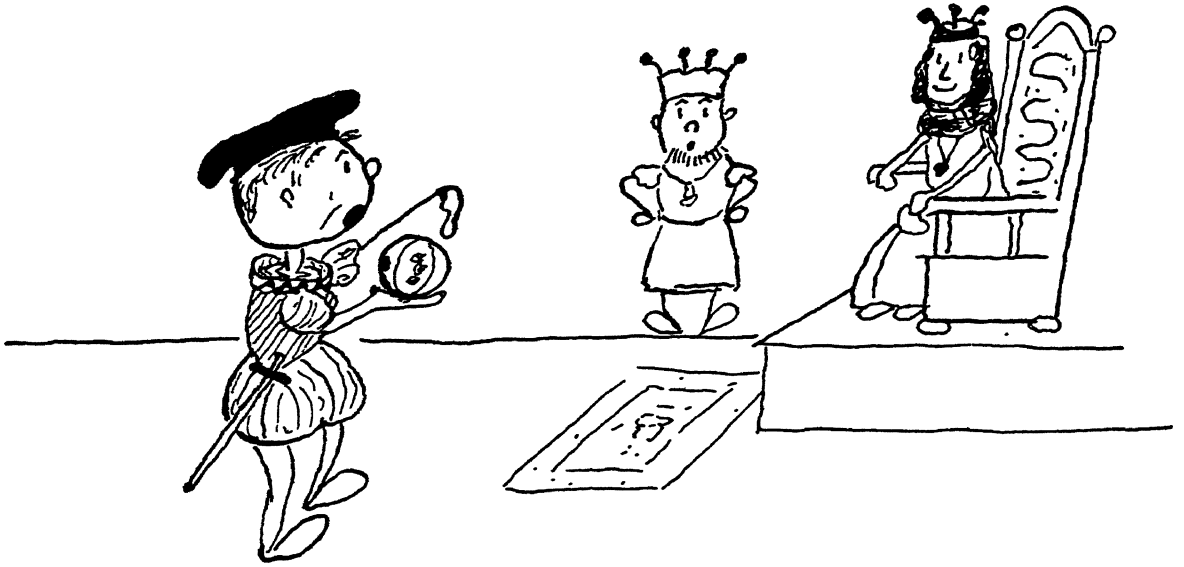
As the hundreds of years of the Middle Ages went by, schools and universities started to grow along with the beautiful churches and cathedrals. The teachers were very often churchmen, and the old Latin language of Rome was the language of educated people all over Europe. There weren't too many of them, but old Greek and Roman books began to be copied and studied again after the Crusades, so people took an interest in thinking and trying to learn once more.

Towns and cities began to grow, especially seaports where trade with the East and other countries grew more and more. People started moving into the towns to work at crafts and trades. Business, shops, merchants and bankers began to make money through trade with foreign countries. People began to think of themselves as citizens of this or that city instead of the serf or servant of some castle-owning chief. As the cities grew stronger and the chiefs and nobles became weaker, they began to obey the kings and emperors. They paid taxes to them, furnished armies for them and Europe started to divide up into the countries and nations that were something like those that are there today.

Toward the end of the Middle Ages the big trading cities in Northern Italy were sending merchant ships steadily to the far eastern ends of the Mediterranean. There they were picking up cargoes of cloths, silks, jewels, perfumes and spices that had been carried from the faraway Asian lands of India, China, the Spice Islands and other countries of the Far East. Travelers had wandered overland to some of these places and one man named Marco Polo from the Italian trading city of Venice had come back and written a book about his wonderful journeys in this mysterious Asia. His book and tales of other travelers made the people, particularly the sailors and merchants of Europe, want to reach these distant lands with all their riches. If you are wondering why they bothered so much about spices, it was because they didn't know how to keep meat from spoiling without spices, and if it was a little bad the spices made it taste better.

When Moslem Turks captured the strong Mediterranean city of Constantinople and shut off western trade with the East over land, the rulers and rich merchant companies of the western countries started sending more and more ships out farther into the oceans looking for new ways to get to these far Eastern lands.





Sailors from the little country of Portugal found that it was possible to get to Asia by sailing all the way around Africa. They started a trade so rich that all Europe got excited.

Some of the great Greek thinkers who had lived way back in the time of Alexander's empire in Egypt had believed that the earth was round, and one of them named Eratosthenes had by science come within fifty miles of telling its true size. Christopher Columbus, who went from Genoa in Italy to Spain, knew of the old Greek studies and he, too, believed the world was round. He asked the Queen and King of Spain for ships so he could sail to Asia by going westward across the Atlantic Ocean. He didn't know—nor did anybody else in Europe or Asia—that the continents of North and South America and the big Pacific Ocean were between Europe and faraway Asia.

The Spanish rulers, who had finally conquered the Moslems in their country, gave Columbus some ships and he started West. We all now know that he found America, but even after several voyages back again Columbus died still thinking that our country was part of Asia. That was why he called the red men he found here "Indians," because he thought they were natives of the India that is clear around on the other side of the world.

More and more voyages of discovery were made, and after a while a ship that started from Spain under the leadership of Ferdinand Magellan sailed all the way around the world. From then on the old world turned its eyes on the new world and the whole world, so we call this age of the great sailing discoveries the start of Modern History.





THE WORLD WE KNOW TODAY COMPARED TO THE LITTLE  
CIRCLE OF THE WORLD THE ANCIENTS KNEW

Before we read about the world's happenings as they get closer to our own times, we should understand at least a little about the Far Eastern countries of India and China, Japan and the Asian northland of Mongolia. All these lands had people living in them thousands of years ago, and though very few of the people we have read about so far even knew they lived at all, they, too, had civilizations, great rulers, religions, great thinkers, scholars and inventors. The Chinese are believed to have invented the compass, paper as we make it today, printing and gunpowder—to mention only a few things that have had great effect on the history of the whole world.

The millions who live in India today have carried on for thousands of years a culture and civilization that has much to teach the people of all lands. At one time the

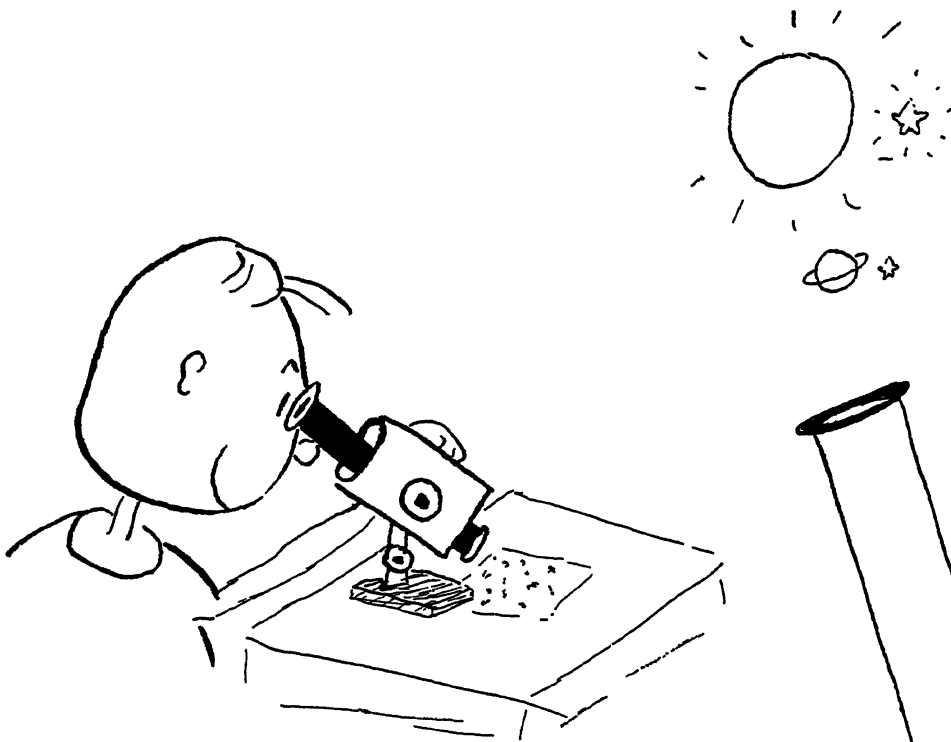
powerful warrior-emperors or Khans of the Mongol people who lived in the northern part of Asia came very close to conquering and ruling the whole known world, both East and West.

Japan, the country of islands, had water barriers that allowed it to develop without much contact with the outside world for thousands of years. Even up to a hundred years ago they tried hard to keep it this way.

It seems a little odd to call the years around 1500 A. D. "Modern Times," but with all the thousands of years of history a little matter of four or five hundred years seems short if you're just reading about it.

This Modern Age that we start to write about when new parts of the world were being discovered has been led and mostly ruled by the people of Europe and their children's children. It is true that no one great nation has ruled all the rest, the way Rome did in her strongest days, and it is certainly true that the modern Western nations have seemed to suffer the old mistake of the Greeks—they have fought and fought among themselves—BUT Western ways of thinking and doing things have been the strongest and have spread all over the world of today.

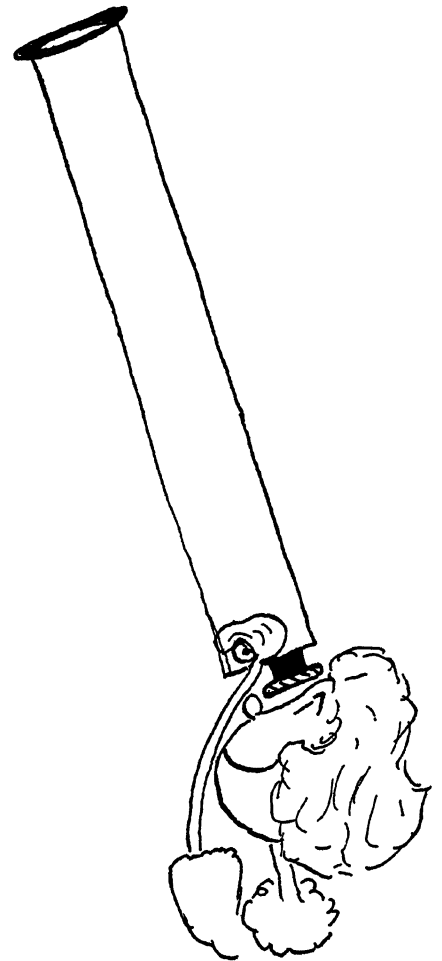




Probably the two main reasons for this strength of the Western people are in their use of two ideas handed down to them from the Greeks.

### SCIENCE and DEMOCRACY

Drawing on the findings of the past, but willing to look for the truth themselves by trying to find out WHY—by experimenting and exchanging ideas—greater and greater discoveries and inventions have been made that help men to live longer and easier pleasanter lives. Discoveries around the time of Columbus of the use of the lens so we could make microscopes and telescopes

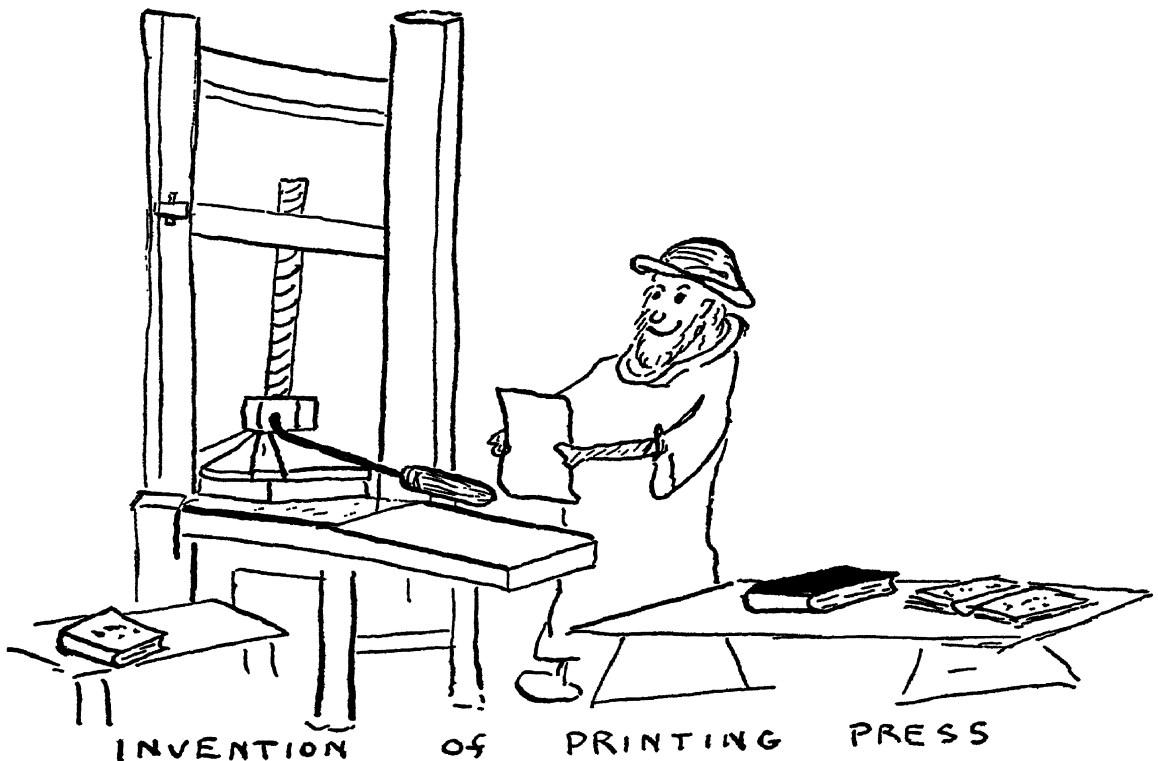




opened up worlds as new as the ones the sailors found. Some of the mysteries of life and power and the nature of all kinds of material were uncovered in the searching for truths that still goes on and on.

Democracy is the name we give to the "rule of the people," and in our own country where we each have a say in how we want our nation to be run, we have found that men work best together when they all obey laws that have been made and agreed to by all of them—not forced on them by others.

One of the greatest helps of democracy was the start of printing in Europe around Columbus' time. For the first time books could be read and owned by thousands of people instead of just a few. Knowledge spread wider and wider and real education of the people was on its way.

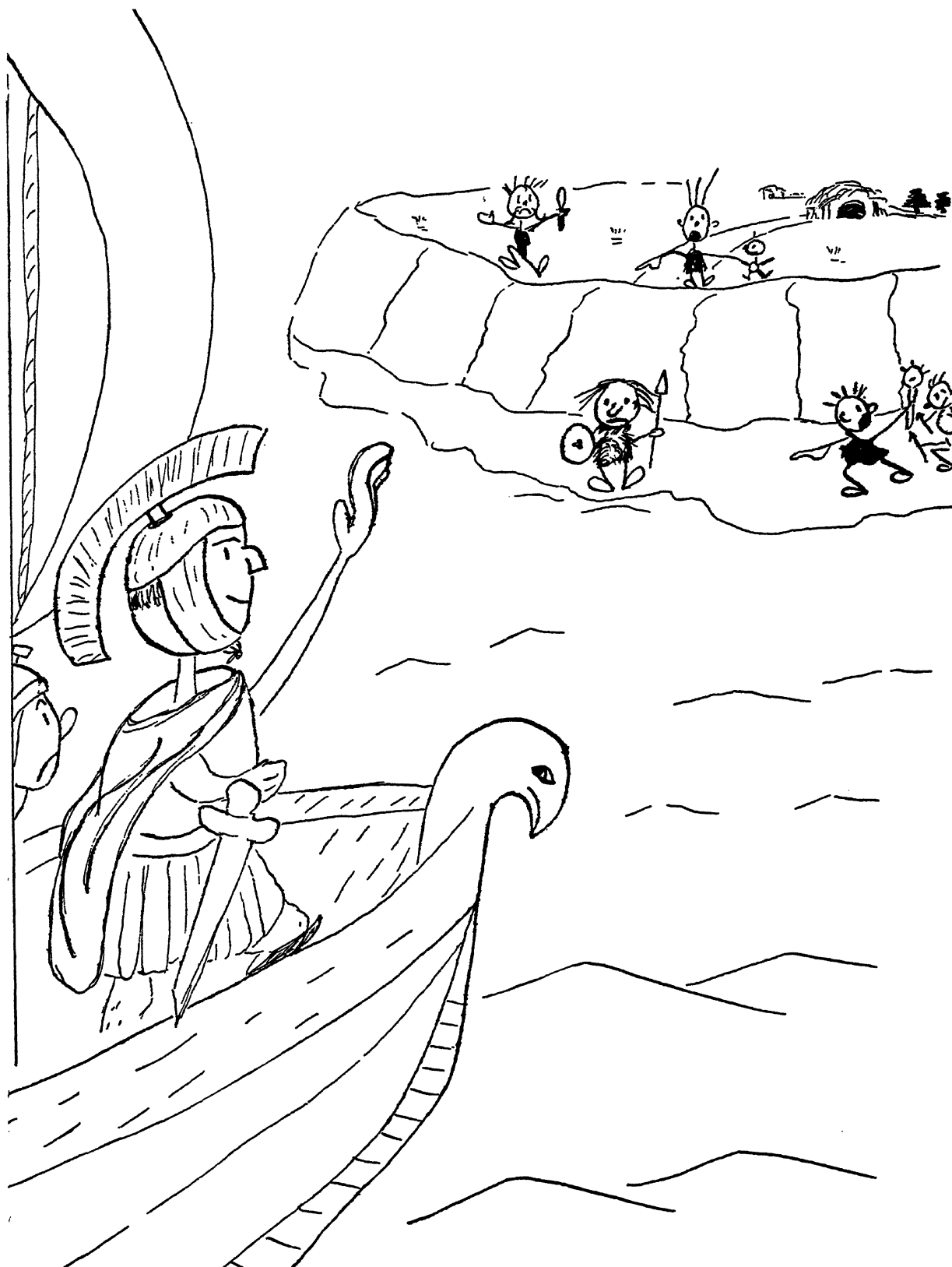


So, as the powers of science and democracy grew stronger bit by bit in Europe, we will watch one European country for a while. It is the country that had so much to do with who and what we are today that this book is written in their language—the country is

## ENGLAND

The history of England from its beginning is like a miniature history of all Western Europe. This little island lying off the northwestern part of the mainland of Europe went through pretty much the same sort of changes, troubles and wars as the peoples of the Continent. Bit by bit the common people were better off than before and had more and more to say about how their lives would be run. Today England is one of the leading countries of the world whose people are working and hoping to find a way to keep peace and make our lives in the future safer and happier. But there wasn't much peace and happiness in England in her early days.

Just as the great tribes and hordes moved and fought, pushing each other around Europe until they at last settled down into nations, so many different kinds of people raided, invaded, ruled for a while and settled to mix together and marry with each other in England. An Englishman today has ancestors from a lot of different places. Where the earliest known Celts and Britons came from is not certain, but it is likely that they were some of those Indo-Europeans who moved so many thousands of years ago across Asia and into nearly every part of the western world.

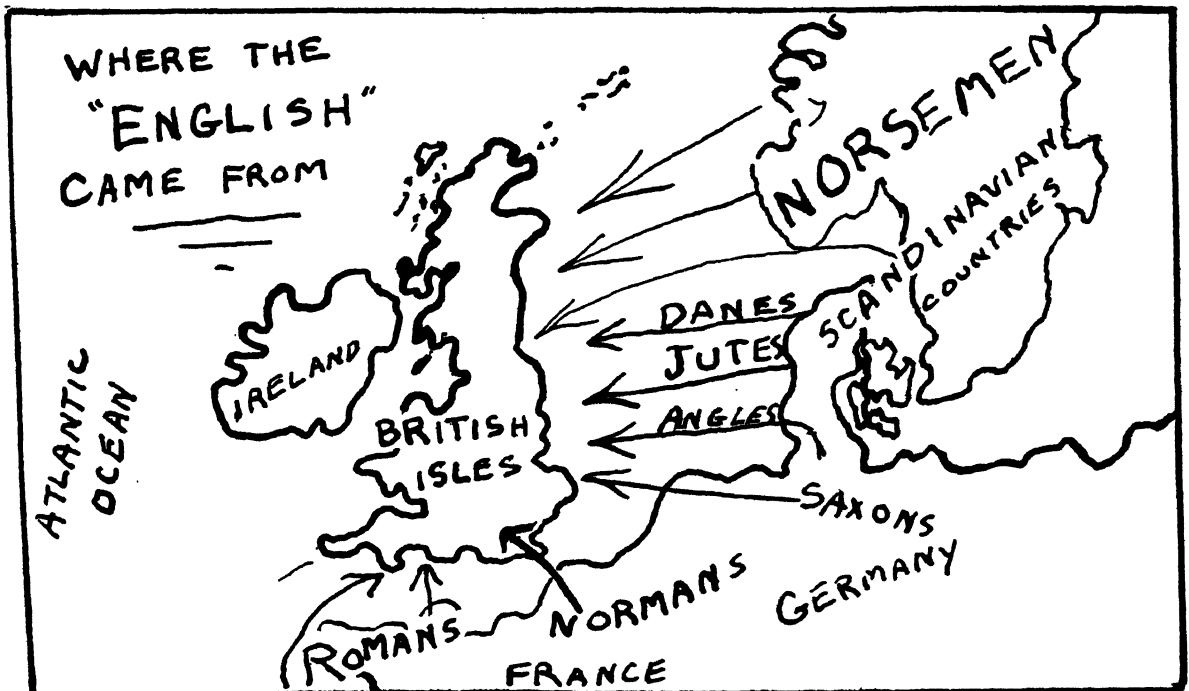


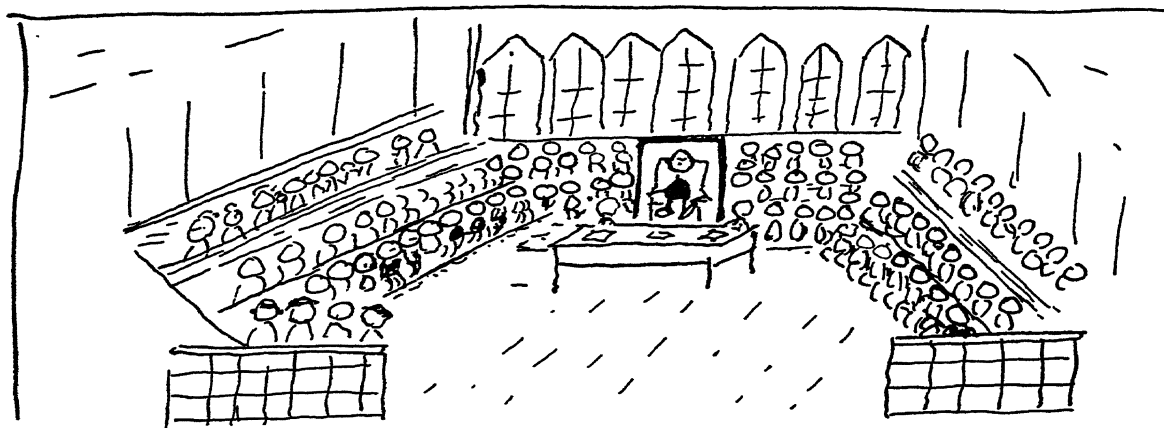
When Julius Caesar, one of the greatest Roman leaders—maybe the greatest—sailed over to England from the coast of France in the year 55 B. C. (about two thousand years ago), he found people there who were a long way from being civilized, compared to the people of Rome and Greece. They knew next to nothing about reading, writing, building or the arts and crafts that had been steadily improved in the Eastern world. What tools and weapons they had were crude and clumsy, so they had a lot to learn from the Romans, who made England part of their big Empire and tried to rule it so there could be peace and order and improvement. The Romans were in England for several hundred years, and some of the roads they made and towns and walls they built are still there, but, when Rome grew weak at home, and the Roman legions left, a new and rougher, tougher people came next.

Along the shores of the North Sea in what we now call Germany there lived tribes of mostly fair-haired, blue-eyed people who were pretty wild and full of fight. They were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes and they all sent raiders and after a while settlers to live in parts of England. They had hardly more than begun to quiet down and live together half peacefully when the fierce Viking raiders of the Scandinavian lands, Norway and Sweden and Denmark, started landing from their fast long ships, and England had still more people mixing together to make her a nation of great seamen. 1066 years after the birth of Christ, more Northmen or Norsemen or Normans, who had lived in France for years,

came over to England under the leadership of a strong chief called William the Conqueror. He killed the last of the Saxon kings and became the ruler of England in the days of the feudal barons and knights when most people were living as serfs near the castle-forts of the Middle Ages.

The English language that we speak and write today is really a mixture that has words that were taken from all the many different kinds of people who went to live in the British Islands, and the customs and laws and ways of living there were built up over hundreds of years from the different ways of these many different people.



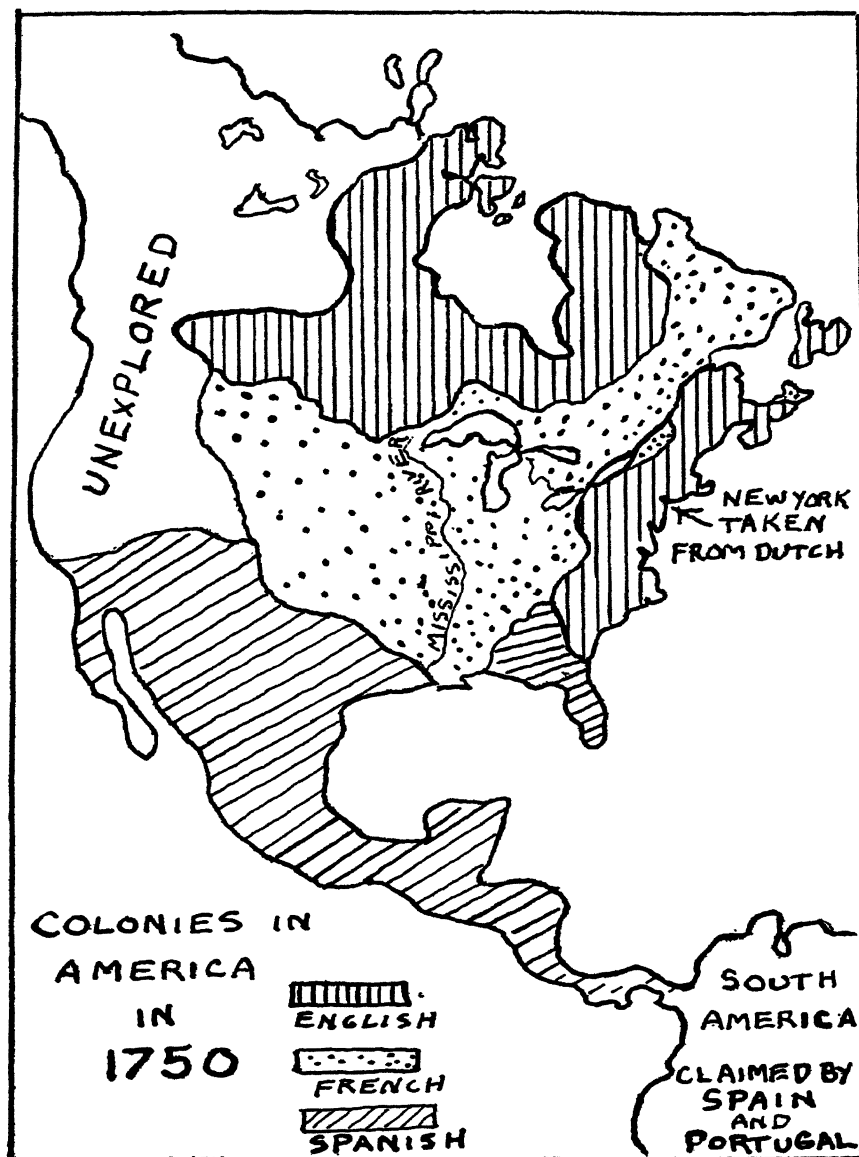


MEETINGS FOR MAKING LAWS - PARLIAMENT

In some things the men and women of England had a little easier time of it earlier than many of their neighbors who lived across the English Channel on the continent of Europe. Their strong chiefs kept the rulers from being too powerful or selfish and cruel and forced them to make laws that gave some rights and freedoms to all the people. After a while the king no longer ruled all alone just the way he felt like it, but had to take the advice of many leaders who would meet together in what they called a Parliament. These meetings to help make the laws for all the people at first were made up only of chiefs and noblemen, but after a while even the working people who weren't rich and powerful were given a chance to help make the laws of their country. This took a long time to happen though, and many quarrels and struggles took place before it did.

People in all the European countries used to fight each other in their own countries and against other nations about their religion. Some rulers tried to make people worship God one way and some another. One terrible war went on in parts of Europe for thirty years because of religion, and thousands of people were killed and many more made unhappy.

When the great voyages were made around the time of Columbus, and new parts of the world were discovered, the nations of Europe started to race each other and fight each other to get to these new lands first and rule them so they could use their riches and make their people work for them. The countries of Europe started sending out their own people to live in these new lands



just as the Greeks had done hundreds of years before on the shores of the Mediterranean. These settlements in foreign lands were called colonies, and they sent the metals they found or the crops they raised back to the people of European countries who had started them and ruled over them.

About 200 years ago, when our grandfather's father's grandfather's father was alive, five of the European nations had strong colonies in this part of the world we live in that is called the Western Hemisphere, made up of North and South America.

The Spanish and Portugese, the French and the Dutch had sent explorers and soldiers and settlers to start trading centers, and the English were sending thousands of people to live in the lands along our eastern coasts and parts of Canada.

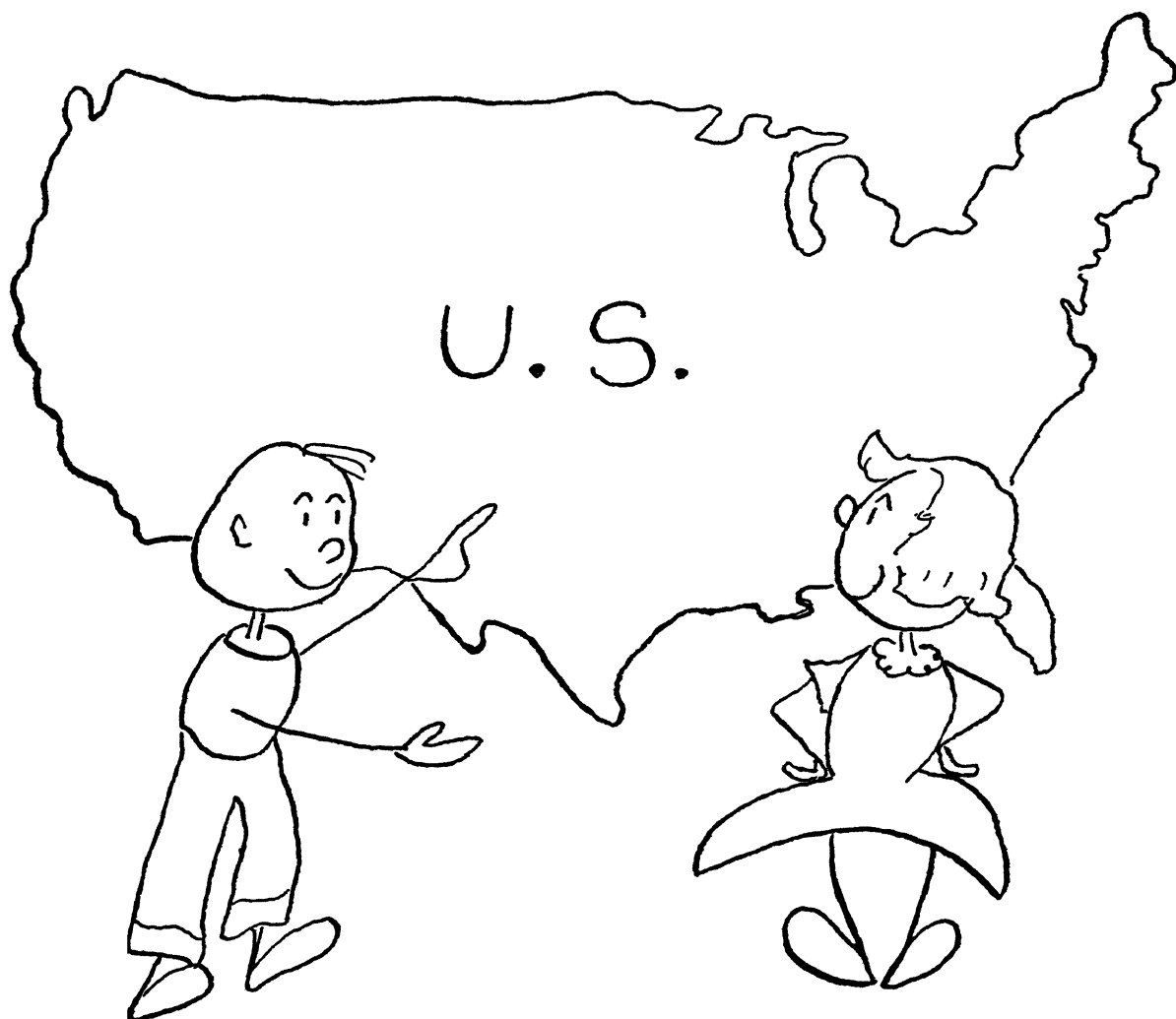
While these colonies were growing in the West, the European countries were also sending ships, soldiers, churchmen and settlers to the Far Eastern lands to claim them, too. You can see how this scrambling to get the riches and ownership of these lands around the world led to jealousy and fighting over who was going to get the best and the most. Very often the people who were already living in these new colonies, like the red Indians in America or the natives of Africa, Eastern Asia or the islands in the Pacific Ocean, weren't strong enough to have any say about whether they wanted to belong to any of these European countries or not.

Wars were fought in Europe and on the oceans by navies and in the new colonial lands over the question of who was going to own and rule them. Out of one of these wars came the beginning of a new nation where



there were to be no kings, nor any rulers of the people except the men and women they chose from among themselves.

This nation with this new kind of government began life as thirteen of the English colonies in North America and, as you probably know, the name of that new nation that has spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean today is our own "United States."



The history of our own country, the United States of America, seems a short one when we think of it as a part of the whole story of world history from the time man first learned to write about himself and his doings. But whether it seems long or short, it is an important history to us and to the people of other countries, because today we have grown to be one of the strongest of all nations and should more and more become a great leader in helping all the world to find peace and a happier life.

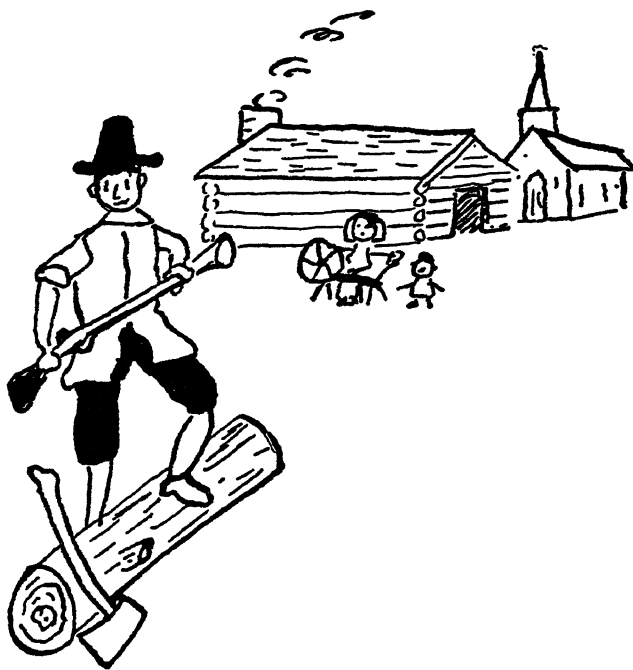
How we grew from a small group of thirteen English colonies along the Atlantic coast and spread across thousands of miles into forty-eight states that reach to the Pacific Ocean, is a story by itself that could fill hundreds and hundreds of books much bigger than this one. But we can learn something about ourselves in a book even as short as this is, if we begin to understand how many, many different kinds of people through all the years have given us ideas and thoughts, inventions and ways that have helped us to do things better and better year after year.

When the European nations started to send out ships to explore the different parts of America, to claim them for their rulers, and to start trade back to the old countries, they did it in many ways. At first the people who came were mostly just the sailors and soldiers who looked for gold, silver, precious jewels and tried to take what they found from the Indians, usually by force. But more and more of them found out that the land itself was good and that men and women could live well here if they were willing to work, to hunt and build their homes and raise crops.



**The Spanish, who explored much of the southern part of our country, Florida, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California, defeated the rulers of old Indian civilizations in Mexico, Central America and South America. They often sent churchmen with their soldiers and taught Christianity to the Indians who worked for them in their settlements.**

Most of us already know the stories of the Pilgrims and Puritans who came to New England to settle there where they could worship God in their own way, and some of us have read about the other early English settlers who went to Virginia where Captain John Smith



led one band that settled in Jamestown. Because we more often read the stories of the early English settlers and those of the Dutch who lived in New York, we often overlook the French who came down through Canada to explore the Mississippi River down to New Orleans and claimed much of our Middle West and West for their king. Only a few of us seem to remember that there were colonies



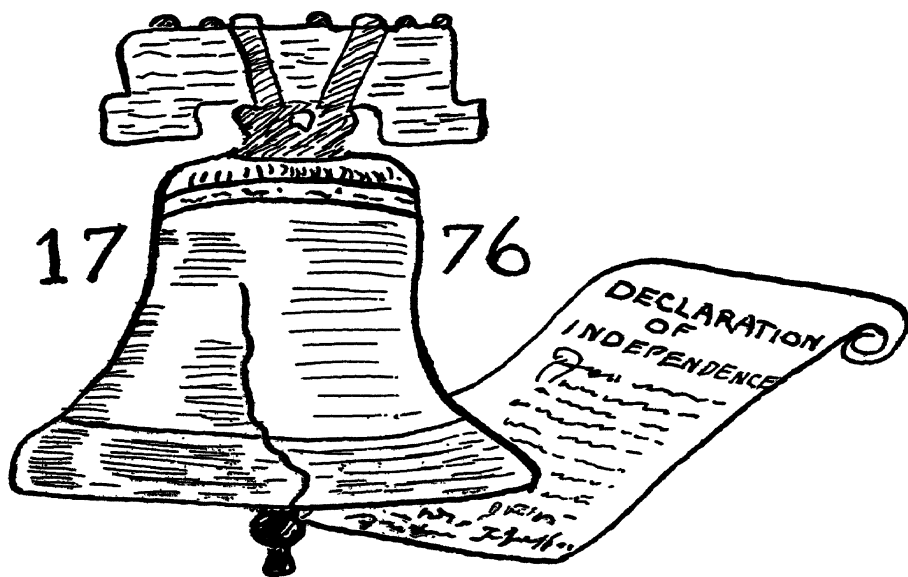
of Swedish people in what we now call Delaware, Swiss in Georgia and more French in the Carolinas. Many Americans today get a big surprise when they go to the city of St. Augustine in Florida and see a marker that was at the eastern end of a Spanish road that ran from San Diego in California all

the way to the Atlantic Ocean before the little ship Mayflower got to Massachusetts.

It isn't very important now who came first to where in our country—the thing that is so wonderful about the United States is that so many different kinds of people came together and learned how to get on so well with each other that our civilization has grown from good thoughts and ways and customs given by all.

Now it would be nice to think that the minute all these early settlers came here from Europe they got along well together and never had any quarrels or wars like those in the countries they had left behind them. But we all know that isn't so. We have had our troubles, too, and one of our biggest ones was the trouble we had starting our own kind of government when the English rulers didn't want us to.

By the year 1776 when our people made our "Declaration of Independence" and said that we meant to



**rule ourselves from then on, the thirteen colonies that had joined together to do this were:**

**Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Connecticut  
Rhode Island  
New York  
New Jersey  
Pennsylvania  
Delaware  
Maryland  
Virginia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Georgia**

**They became the first “States” of the United States, and we had to win the Revolutionary War before England or the other nations of Europe would believe that we belonged to ourselves and to ourselves alone.**

**Most of our leaders, at first, didn’t expect us to break away from English rule, and only wanted the King and his government to stop making laws that forced us to do nearly everything for the good of England without our having anything to say about whether we wanted to or not.**

**They made us pay taxes without any say in how those taxes would be spent. They tried to make us send all of our goods we traded back to them for them to manufacture and sell to others or even back to us. Many of our famous men like George Washington, Benjamin**

Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison worked to change England's treatment of her colonies, but the King and some of his advisers were stubborn and sent soldiers to force us to obey. At Lexington in Massachusetts the Revolutionary War started in 1775 and when it was over, we were the rulers of ourselves.

George Washington, who had led our armies during the war, was chosen as our first president and he helped to lead us in our start under a great new set of written laws called our Constitution. This set of laws was written and agreed to by the men who were sent from the thirteen states to speak for their people, and to this day our laws that have to be followed by all the people are made by the men or women we choose and send to meetings in Washington that we call our Congress.



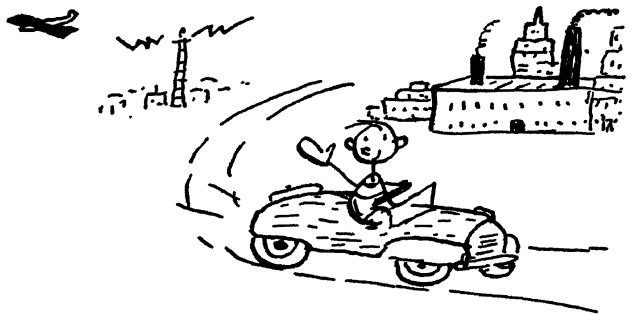
NO MORE KINGS  
FOR US

As the years went by and people came to our country from many lands, our nation spread westward farther and farther.

The invention of new machines and new methods of doing things was changing the ways of living of people all over the world. Factories were being built and cities were growing larger and larger around these manufacturing centers while farmers were still trying to own and work more land to raise things for the ever-growing population.

A little more than a hundred years ago the people of our country came face to face with another big problem that was full of trouble and quarrels that led to war.

Even back in the days of the earliest Egyptians we know about, men had forced others to work for them and these people who had to work for others or lose their lives were called slaves.



MACHINES HAVE CHANGED  
OUR WHOLE WAY OF  
LIVING

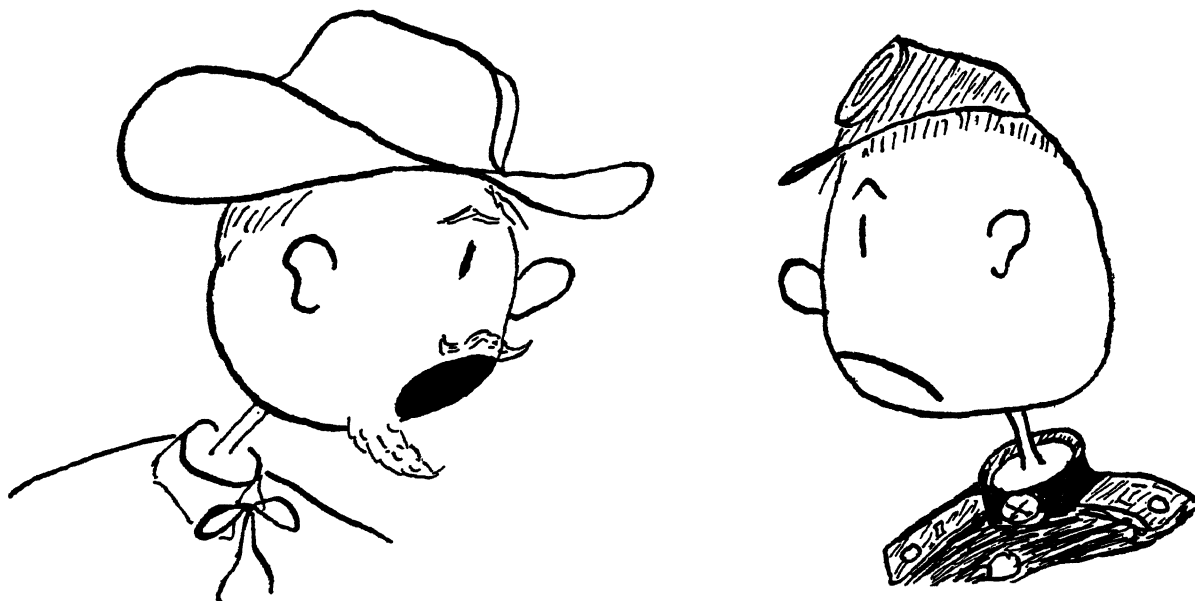


In all the civilizations that we have read about so far, there had been slaves. Africans had them, Asians had them, Greeks, Romans and Europeans. In the early American colonies the settlers, too, had slaves. At first they tried to make slaves of the Indians, but in North America that didn't work out very well, so after some white slaves had been brought over from Europe, and that didn't work very well either, men began to sail to Africa to capture Negro slaves to work in this new Western land. They worked out best in the southern part of our country where great crops of tobacco and cotton were raised to send back to England. Many thousands of these Negro people were sold without their having any more choice about it than a horse or cow would have.

After our Revolutionary War, the northern states used fewer and fewer slaves in their manufacturing cities and the smaller farms, but our southern states that were mostly crop raising and trading still used a lot of slaves on their big plantations.

More and more, people in the North wanted to set these slaves free, but the people of the South didn't feel that they could do so without great danger to their way of living.

Quarrels rose and finally most of the people of the South decided that they had better make a government of their own, break away from the United States and set up a new nation called the Confederate States of America.



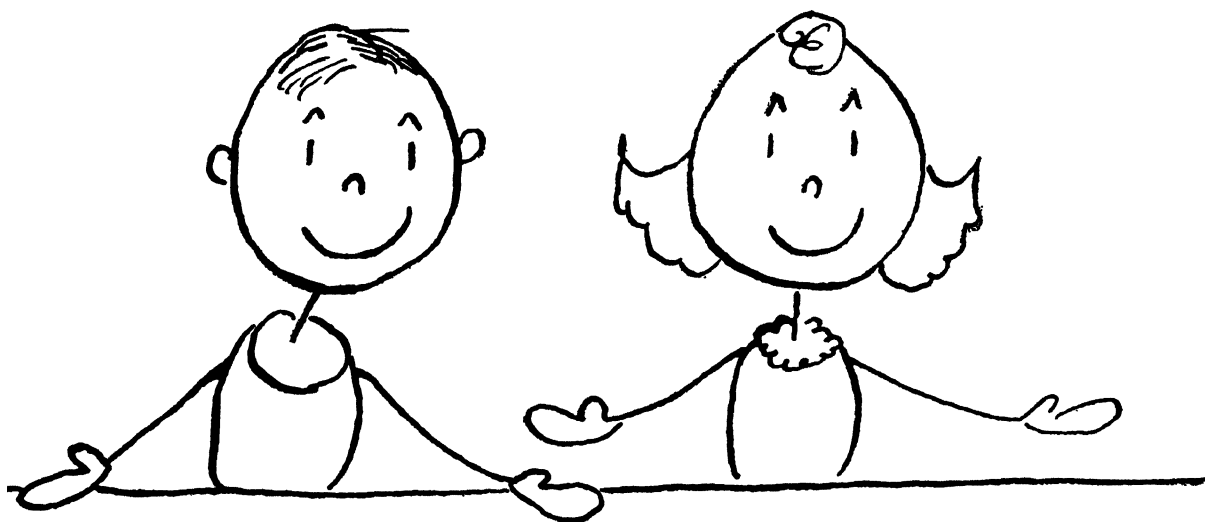
One of the greatest and finest leaders we have ever had was our president at that time, and he was certain that if our country was divided into two parts it would lead us all into more and worse troubles in the years to come. His name was Abraham Lincoln and the war that started between the North and South to decide this question is called our Civil War.

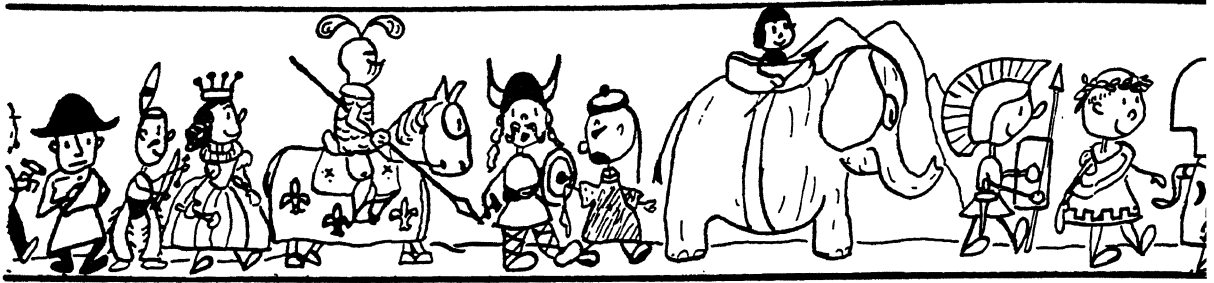
Fine and splendid leaders were on both sides in this terrible war, and they all felt that their part of the country was right, so when the war was finally over and we stayed under one government, people of both sides worked together again to make us one great nation of a united people. People have come from all over the world to become citizens of our country. Bringing different customs and ways of living that have been handed down to them from ancient civilizations. We have all mixed together trying to get the best from each other for the good of all of us.

Our people have fought in other wars—against the Indians, the Spaniards, the Mexicans. While your own mothers and fathers have been alive, we have had to fight in wars with some of the nations of Europe and Asia.

Let us take a quick look around the world of today and see what has happened to us and the people of other lands in hopes that we can find a way of all living together in peace.

The world we live in is greatly changed since we first became a nation. Discoveries, inventions, revolutions and new systems of government have brought the two and a half billion people of the earth to a point where we must all learn to get along well together.





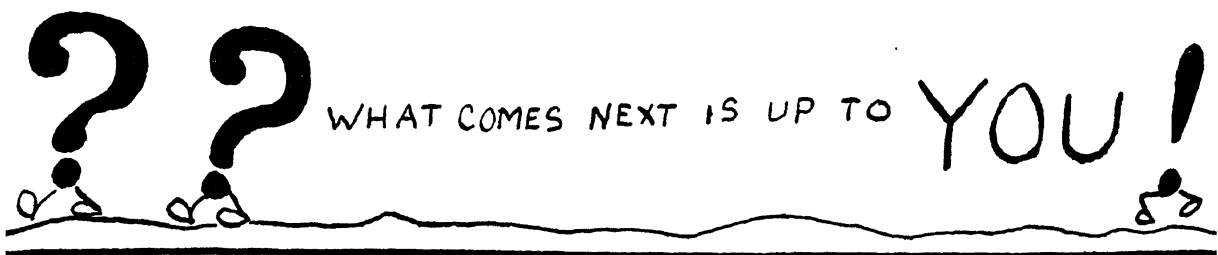
After years of building colonial empires, the great nations of Europe have had to give more and more of the ruling of those lands to the people who live in them.

All of South and Central America is now divided into republics who run their own governments.

Lands and people of the Far East now have their own leaders, and though strong men like Charlemagne, Genghis Khan, and Napoleon and Hitler have tried at times to rule the whole world, not since the days of the Roman Empire has there been a real boss of the world. Some countries have grown very powerful and strong, like our own United States and like the nation of Russia, leader of the Soviet Republics that stretch from Europe to the Pacific Ocean.

Sometimes as we hear the news of our everchanging world we grow discouraged in our hope that we will all ever settle down and live together in peace.

**BUT**



After two great wars in which nearly all the countries in the world were fighting, a great new try has been made to end all wars and help the people of all lands. This great hope of all thinking, decent people is called the

### UNITED NATIONS.

It is like a great congress or parliament where laws and agreements can be made for all the world. All nations can help to decide there how we shall live together—fairly and peacefully with respect for each other.

It gives us a chance to learn to know and understand each other—to work together for the good of all of us. So it is up to the men, women, boys and girls of every land to work for the success of

The United Nations.

IF we each will do our part in every way we can, then

the

**HISTORY**

**of the**

**Years to Come**

**CAN BE FUN**







